NO. 52...APR...MAY

TEN CENTS

A SUPERMAN PUBLICATION DC

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BATMAN

A 52 PAGE MAGAZINE

In this issue: BATMAN and ROBIN FIGHT A NEW BATTLE AGAINST THEIR OLD ENEMY *the* Joker!

NOW
MORE THAN EVER

~LOOK FOR THIS FAMOUS SYMBOL!

A SUPERMAN DC PUBLICATION

THERE ARE MORE COMICS ON THE NEWS-STANDS THAN EVER BEFORE - SOME *GOOD*, SOME *BAD*, SOME *AVERAGE*...

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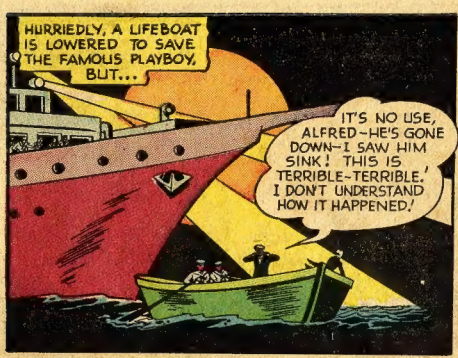
Printed in U.S.A.

BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-
BY
BOB KANE
DO YOU REMEMBER ALFRED, BRUCE WAYNE'S TRUSTED BUTLER, THE OVER-ZEALOUS, WOULD-BE SHERLOCK WHO MANAGES TO GET INVOLVED IN THE ODDEST ADVENTURES? WELL, GOOD OLD ALFRED, THE ONLY PERSON EXCEPT ROBIN WHO KNOWS THAT BRUCE WAYNE IS THE BATMAN, TANGLES WITH A MONSTROUS MASTER-CRIMINAL WHO, ALSO WOULD LIKE TO KNOW BATMAN'S TRUE IDENTITY--AND WHO HAS PERFECTED THE MEANS OF EXTRACTING THIS WORLD-SHAKING INFORMATION FROM UNIQUE INVENTIONS WHICH MAKE HIM KNOWN AS...
"THE MAN WITH THE AUTOMATIC BRAIN!"
BATMAN
WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

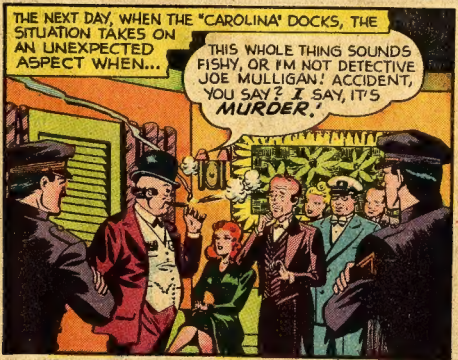
ON A STAR-SPRAYED SUMMER NIGHT, THE YACHT "CAROLINA" PLIES STEADILY SOUTHWARD ON ITS GALA MAIDEN VOYAGE, ITS PASSENGERS UNAWARE OF IMPENDING DISASTER!
ABOARD, FESTIVITY IS THE KEYNOTE OF GOTHAM CITY'S CAFE SOCIETY AS...
METHINKS MISS VICKI VALE DOTH TAKE TOO MANY PICTURES OF OUR HANDSOME PLAYBOY, BRUCE WAYNE! ARE THEY FOR PICTURE MAGAZINE— OR YOUR DIARY?
MEOW!
AND ELSWHERE IN THE SALON...
THANK YOU, SIR.
WASN'T IT THOUGHTFUL OF BRUCE TO PROVIDE US WITH ALFRED FOR THE VOYAGE? YOU'VE DONE WONDERS, ALFRED!
BUT, SCARCELY AN HOUR LATER, WHEN VICKI GOES ON DECK FOR A BREATH OF AIR, THE GAIETY IS SHATTERED ABRUPTLY WHEN...
WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE? IS THAT YOU, ALFRED?
DON'T DO IT, MR. WAYNE! YOU'LL LOSE YOUR BALANCE! PLEASE, SIR— COME BACK!
ON AUTOMATIC IMPULSE, VICKI'S CAMERA FLIES INTO POSITION, AS...
HELP! HELP! SOMEONE! MR. WAYNE HAS FALLEN OVERBOARD!
IT'S BRUCE! BRUCE!
2


HURRIEDLY, A LIFEBOAT IS LOWERED TO SAVE THE FAMOUS PLAYBOY, BUT...
IT'S NO USE, ALFRED—HE'S GONE DOWN—I SAW HIM SINK! THIS IS TERRIBLE—TERRIBLE.' I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW IT HAPPENED.'

IT WAS ALL MY FAULT.' JOKINGLY, I DARED MR. WAYNE TO TIGHTROPE-WALK THE RAILING. I NEVER DREAMED THAT HE WOULD! BEFORE I COULD STOP HIM—HE LOST HIS BALANCE—AND—
JUST LIKE BRUCE.' ANYTHING FOR EXCITEMENT ... A DARE WAS ALWAYS A CHALLENGE.'

NOW A SHIP HEAVY WITH GRIEF, THE "CAROLINA" TURNS SADLY FOR HOME, ITS GRIM NEWS ALREADY A SHOCK TO THE NATION...
Gotham Gazette
BRUCE WAYNE DEAD AT SEA
PLAYBOY DROWNS ACCIDENTALLY AS RESULT OF BOYISH PRANK.
BRUCE WAYNE
REMARKABLE PHOTO OF THE FATAL ACCIDENT SHOT BY A CLOSE FRIEND OF THE DECEASED.

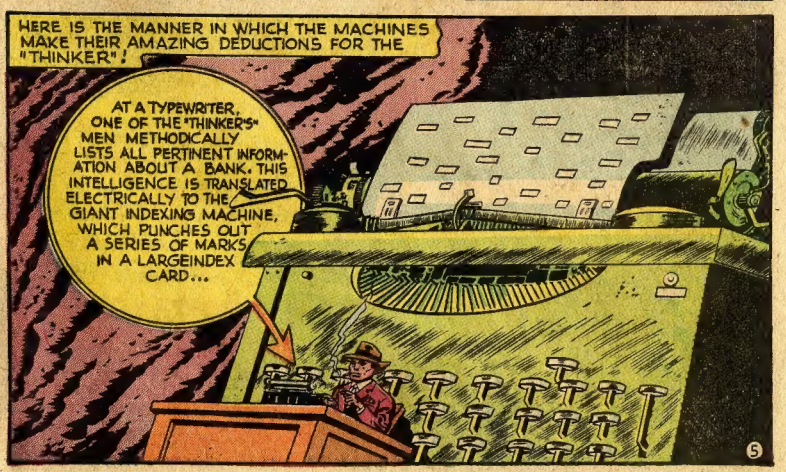
AND AT BRUCE'S HOME, A YOUNG LAD BRAVELY FIGHTS OFF A STORM OF TEARS...
YOUR LAST NAME IS G-R-A-Y-S-O-N, ISN'T IT, DICK? I WANT TO MAKE SURE TO GET THE SPELLING RIGHT FOR MY STORY.'
WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE THE KID ALONE? CAN'T YOU SEE HOW HARD HE'S TAKING THE NEWS OF WAYNE'S DEATH?
REPORTER

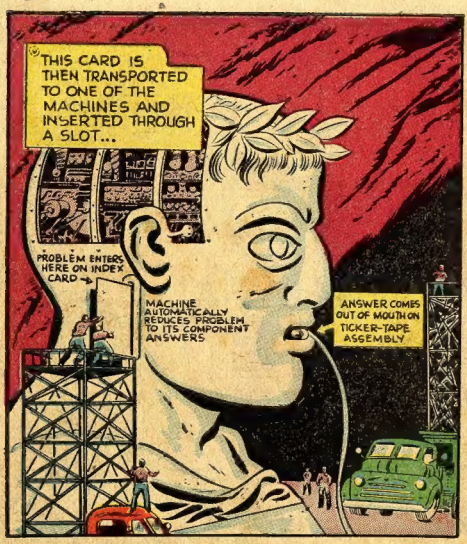

THE NEXT DAY, WHEN THE "CAROLINA" DOCKS, THE SITUATION TAKES ON AN UNEXPECTED ASPECT WHEN...
THIS WHOLE THING SOUNDS FISHY, OR I'M NOT DETECTIVE JOE MULLIGAN! ACCIDENT, YOU SAY? I SAY, IT'S MURDER.'

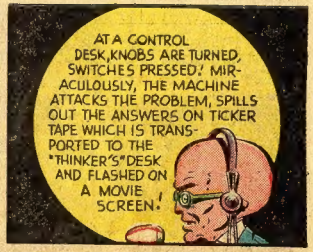
YOU THERE—THE BUTLER.' YOU WERE THE LAST PERSON WITH WAYNE.' IT'S JUST LIKE THE MOVIES—THE BUTLER ALWAYS DOES IT.' I THINK YOU PUSHED HIM OVERBOARD.' WE GOT A PICTURE TO PROVE IT.'
OH, NO.' NO!

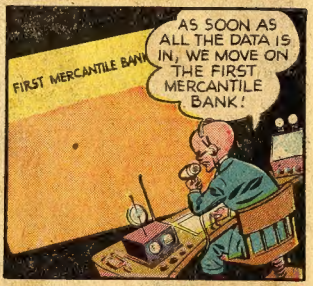
PROTESTING IN VAIN, ALFRED IS BOOKED ON SUSPICION OF MURDER, AS...
I TELL YOU SIR - IT'S OPEN AND SHUT! WE'VE GOT THE MOTIVE NOW, TOO! THE BUTLER INHERITS A FORTUNE UNDER THE TERMS OF BRUCE WAYNE'S WILL!
WANTED
DID ALFRED MURDER BRUCE? OR WAS IT REALLY AN ACCIDENT? FOR THE AMAZING TRUTH, WE MUST TURN BACK TIME...
OH, DEAR - NOW I'M REALLY IN A JAM! AND BATMAN CAN'T HELP ME ANY MORE!
... BACK TO ANOTHER DAY IN GOTHAM CITY SPRAWLING, PULSING GIANT OF A TOWN... WHERE A MILLION SEPARATE DRAMAS UNFOLD EACH MOMENT... INCLUDING THE STARK TRAGEDY OF CRIME!
LOOK OUT!! IT'S BATMAN AND ROBIN!
LIKE TWIN METEORS, BATMAN AND ROBIN STREAK INTO ACTION!
BAN
PRESENTLY...
THOSE THUGS YOU BROUGHT IN ARE SOME MORE OF THE "THINKER'S" BOYS, BATMAN! WE PICKED ANOTHER ONE UP BADLY WOUNDED, INSIDE THE BANK. WITNESSES CLAIM THE "THINKER" HIMSELF SHOT THE HOOD WHEN HE BLUNDERED.
SOON AFTER...
THE "THINKER" IS ONE OF THE MOST FIENDISH CRIMINALS OF OUR TIME, ROBIN! A MAN WHO EMPLOYS SUPER-HUMAN "THINKING MACHINES" TO PLAN EVERY INCH OF HIS CRIMES - A METHODICAL MONSTER WE'D BETTER TRACK DOWN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
ZOOM

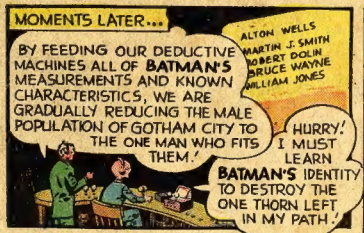
AND HERE, HEWN IN NEARBY MOUNTAINS, IS THE "THINKER'S" AMAZING, GIANT HIDEOUT!
AND AS AN ADDED DIABOLICAL TOUCH, THE "THINKER" CHOOSES APT FIGURES FROM HISTORY TO HOUSE HIS EXTRAORDINARY MACHINES...
Analytical and Deductive Machine
EDGAR ALLAN POE
MASTER OF CRIME DEDUCTION
EDGAR ALLAN POE
Poison Formula Calculator
LUCREZIA BORGIA
CONNOISSEUR OF POISONS
NO—THIS IS NO MUSEUM! WITHIN EACH CHISELED SKULL IS LODGED AN ELECTRONIC "AUTOMATIC BRAIN"—A "THINKING MACHINE" CAPABLE OF REDUCING IN HOURS A PROBLEM THAT MIGHT TAKE HUMANS MONTHS TO SOLVE!

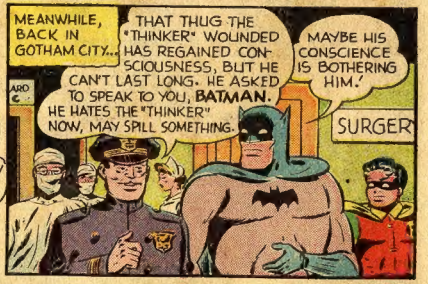

HERE IS THE MANNER IN WHICH THE MACHINES MAKE THEIR AMAZING DEDUCTIONS FOR THE "THINKER"!
AT A TYPEWRITER, ONE OF THE "THINKER'S" MEN METHODICALLY LISTS ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION ABOUT A BANK. THIS INTELLIGENCE IS TRANSLATED ELECTRICALLY TO THE GIANT INDEXING MACHINE, WHICH PUNCHES OUT A SERIES OF MARKS IN A LARGE INDEX CARD...


THIS CARD IS THEN TRANSPORTED TO ONE OF THE MACHINES AND INSERTED THROUGH A SLOT...
PROBLEM ENTERS HERE ON INDEX CARD
MACHINE AUTOMATICALLY REDUCES PROBLEM TO ITS COMPONENT ANSWERS
ANSWER COMES OUT OF MOUTH ON TICKER-TAPE ASSEMBLY

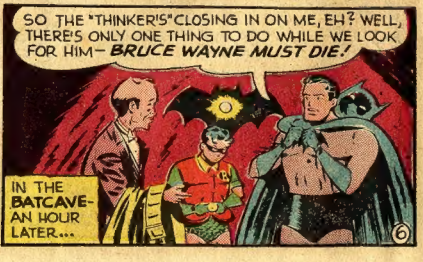

AT A CONTROL DESK, KNOBS ARE TURNED, SWITCHES PRESSED! MIRACULOUSLY, THE MACHINE ATTACKS THE PROBLEM, SPILLS OUT THE ANSWERS ON TICKER TAPE WHICH IS TRANSPORTED TO THE "THINKER'S" DESK AND FLASHED ON A MOVIE SCREEN!


FIRST MERCANTILE BANK
AS SOON AS ALL THE DATA IS IN, WE MOVE ON THE FIRST MERCANTILE BANK!


MOMENTS LATER...
BY FEEDING OUR DEDUCTIVE MACHINES ALL OF BATMAN'S MEASUREMENTS AND KNOWN CHARACTERISTICS, WE ARE GRADUALLY REDUCING THE MALE POPULATION OF GOTHAM CITY TO THE ONE MAN WHO FITS THEM.'
ALTON WELLS
MARTIN J. SMITH
ROBERT DOLIN
BRUCE WAYNE
WILLIAM JONES
HURRY! I MUST LEARN BATMAN'S IDENTITY TO DESTROY THE ONE THORN LEFT IN MY PATH.'


MEANWHILE, BACK IN GOTHAM CITY...
THAT THUG THE "THINKER" WOUNDED HAS REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS, BUT HE CAN'T LAST LONG. HE ASKED TO SPEAK TO YOU, BATMAN. HE HATES THE "THINKER" NOW, MAY SPILL SOMETHING.
MAYBE HIS CONSCIENCE IS BOTHERING HIM.'
SURGER

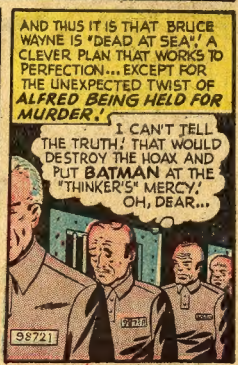
AT THE THUG'S BEDSIDE..
BE-CAREFUL-BATMAN... "THINKER"-MACHINES-BREAK-YOUR-IDENTITY...KNOW-WHO-YOU-ARE-VERY-SOON...


SO THE "THINKER'S" CLOSING IN ON ME, EH? WELL, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO WHILE WE LOOK FOR HIM— BRUCE WAYNE MUST DIE!
IN THE BATCAVE- AN HOUR LATER...

RETURNING TO THEIR REGULAR ROLES AS PLAYBOY BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON...
WITH BRUCE WAYNE "DEAD", THE "THINKER" WILL BE THROWN OFF THE TRACK. IT'S A STALLING TACTIC THAT MUST BE UNDERTAKEN AT ONCE—AND THIS DUMMY FROM OUR COLLECTION WILL HELP DO THE TRICK!

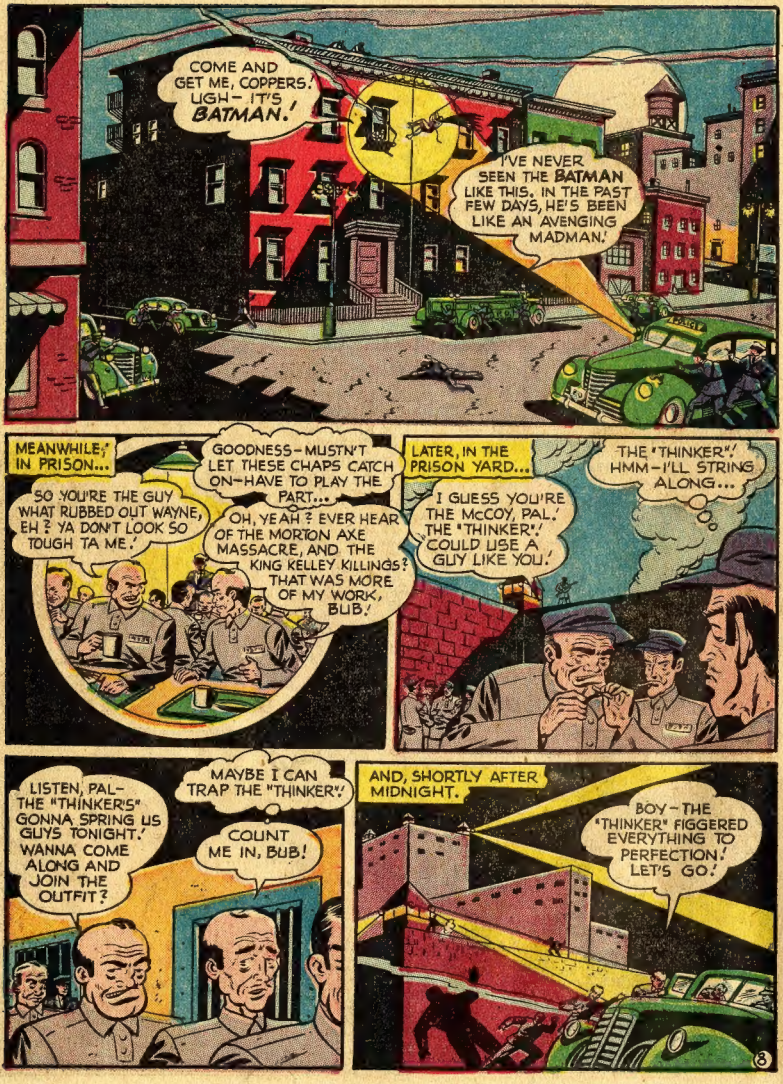
I'LL ARRANGE FOR ALFRED TO SAIL WITH ME TOMORROW ON THE 'CAROLINA'. AT A PREDETERMINED TIME, I'LL DISAPPEAR AND YOU, ALFRED, WILL DUMP THE DUMMY OVERBOARD AND FAKE AN ACCIDENT.'

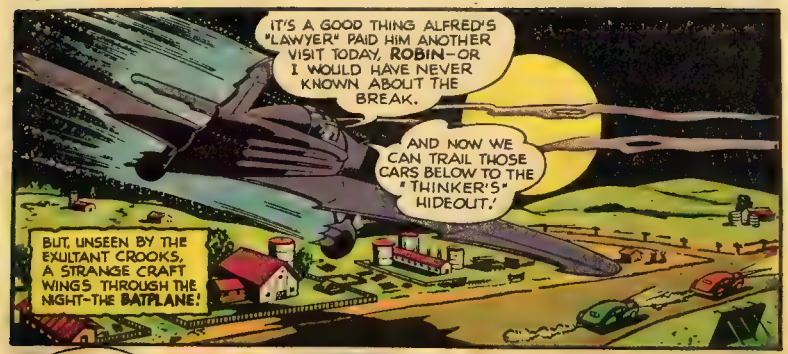
WHEN WATER REACHES THIS POWDER, IT WILL HARDEN INTO STONE AND SINK THE DUMMY. IT SHOULD TAKE ABOUT THREE MINUTES... ENOUGH TIME FOR WITNESSES TO SEE ME "DROWN"!


AND THUS IT IS THAT BRUCE WAYNE IS 'DEAD AT SEA!' A CLEVER PLAN THAT WORKS TO PERFECTION... EXCEPT FOR THE UNEXPECTED TWIST OF ALFRED BEING HELD FOR MURDER!'
I CAN'T TELL THE TRUTH! THAT WOULD DESTROY THE HOAX AND PUT BATMAN AT THE "THINKER'S" MERCY! OH, DEAR...
98721

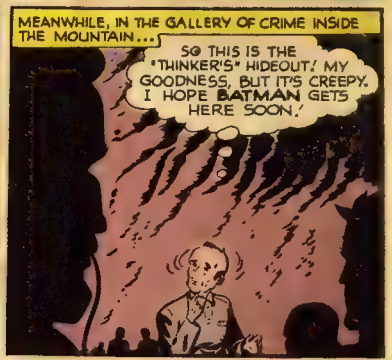
THAT AFTERNOON, POLICE ALLOW A LAWYER TO VISIT ALFRED...
MR. WAYNE!
SHHHH! SIT TIGHT—DON'T WORRY. I'LL FIGURE A WAY OUT FOR YOU. MEANWHILE, I'VE GOT TO MAKE SOME APPEARANCES AS BATMAN, SO THAT HE AND BRUCE WAYNE ARE FOREVER DISASSOCIATED.' I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN!

WHILE THE NEWSPAPERS STILL BURN WITH STORIES OF BRUCE WAYNE'S MURDER, BATMAN ROARS AGAINST THE UNDERWORLD WITH RENEWED FRENZY TO MAKE SURE HIS PRESENCE IS KNOWN TO THE "THINKER".'


COME AND GET ME, COPPERS! UGH—IT'S BATMAN!
I'VE NEVER SEEN THE BATMAN LIKE THIS. IN THE PAST FEW DAYS, HE'S BEEN LIKE AN AVENGING MADMAN!
MEANWHILE, IN PRISON...
SO YOU'RE THE GUY WHAT RUBBED OUT WAYNE, EH? YA DON'T LOOK SO TOUGH TA ME!
GOODNESS—MUSTN'T LET THESE CHAPS CATCH ON—HAVE TO PLAY THE PART...
OH, YEAH? EVER HEAR OF THE MORTON AXE MASSACRE, AND THE KING KELLEY KILLINGS? THAT WAS MORE OF MY WORK, BUB!
LATER, IN THE PRISON YARD...
I GUESS YOU'RE THE McCOY, PAL. THE "THINKER"! COULD USE A GUY LIKE YOU!
THE "THINKER"! HMM—I'LL STRING ALONG...
LISTEN, PAL—THE "THINKER'S" GONNA SPRING US GUYS TONIGHT. WANNA COME ALONG AND JOIN THE OUTFIT?
MAYBE I CAN TRAP THE "THINKER"!
COUNT ME IN, BUB!
AND, SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT.
BOY—THE "THINKER" FIGGERED EVERYTHING TO PERFECTION! LET'S GO!


IT'S A GOOD THING ALFRED'S "LAWYER" PAID HIM ANOTHER VISIT TODAY, ROBIN—OR I WOULD HAVE NEVER KNOWN ABOUT THE BREAK.
AND NOW WE CAN TRAIL THOSE CARS BELOW TO THE "THINKER'S" HIDEOUT!
BUT, UNSEEN BY THE EXULTANT CROOKS, A STRANGE CRAFT WINGS THROUGH THE NIGHT—THE BATPLANE!

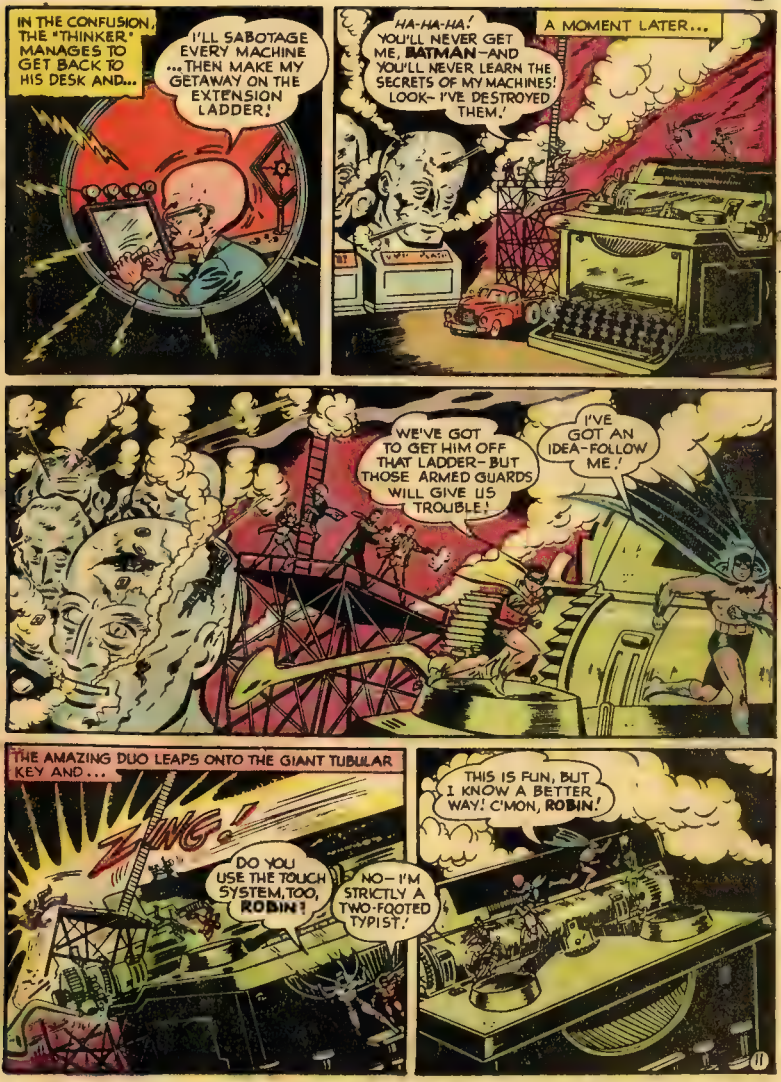
THEY DROVE RIGHT INTO A MOUNTAIN!
MARK IT CAREFULLY—THAT'S WHERE WE'RE HEADED AS SOON AS I SET THIS BABY DOWN!


MEANWHILE, IN THE GALLERY OF CRIME INSIDE THE MOUNTAIN...
SO THIS IS THE "THINKER'S" HIDEOUT! MY GOODNESS, BUT IT'S CREEPY. I HOPE BATMAN GETS HERE SOON!

SUDDENLY, ALFRED GETS AN IDEA...
MIGHT AS WELL BE DOING SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE WHILE I WAIT! NOTHING LIKE THROWING A MONKEY-WRENCH INTO SOMEBODY'S PLANS!

BULL'S-EYE! THIS SHOULD CAUSE SOME FIREWORKS!

WHILE AT THE OTHER END OF THE HIDEOUT...
THE POE DEDUCTIVE MACHINE SHOULD HAVE THE FINAL ANSWER TO BATMAN'S IDENTITY BY NOW. GO GET THE TAPE AT ONCE.'
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THAT MACHINE. I NEVER HEARD IT MAKE SO MUCH NOISE.'
THAT MONKEY-WRENCH DID THE TRICK!
CRACKLE
POP!
BANG!
Analytical and Deductive Machine
EDGAR ALLAN POE
MASTER OF CRIME DEDUCTION
LOOK-HERE COMES THE ANSWER NOW.'
SWIFTLY THE ANSWER IS FLASHED TO THE "THINKER"...
SO YOU ARE BATMAN! YOU STUPID FOOL! DID YOU THINK YOU COULD OUTWIT ME? SEIZE HIM.'
BATMAN IS ALFRED, BRUCE WAYNE'S BUTLER
OH-NO-NO! THIS IS ALL A TERRIBLE MISTAKE! I'M NOT BATMAN—I COULDN'T BE BATMAN...
YOU'RE RIGHT, ALFRED. YOU COULDN'T BE BATMAN—WHAT WOULD THAT MAKE ME?!!
THE REAL BATMAN—AND ROBIN, WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO MY MACHINES?
BEFORE THE ASTOUNDED MOB CAN COLLECT ITSELF...
IT'S LOVE AT FIRST FIGHT! LOOK HOW THEY'RE FALLING FOR US.'
I SAY—THIS IS RATHER EXCITING.'
CRACK!
SOCK!
BONG!
YEAH—THEY'RE TUMBLING TO US RIGHT AWAY!
NOW YOU BOYS KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE TIED DOWN WITH A LOT OF RED TAPE.'


IN THE CONFUSION, THE "THINKER" MANAGES TO GET BACK TO HIS DESK AND...
I'LL SABOTAGE EVERY MACHINE ...THEN MAKE MY GETAWAY ON THE EXTENSION LADDER!
HA-HA-HA! YOU'LL NEVER GET ME, BATMAN—AND YOU'LL NEVER LEARN THE SECRETS OF MY MACHINES! LOOK— I'VE DESTROYED THEM.
A MOMENT LATER...
WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM OFF THAT LADDER— BUT THOSE ARMED GUARDS WILL GIVE US TROUBLE!
I'VE GOT AN IDEA—FOLLOW ME.!
THE AMAZING DUO LEAPS ONTO THE GIANT TUBULAR KEY AND...
ZING!
DO YOU USE THE TOUCH SYSTEM, TOO, ROBIN!
NO— I'M STRICTLY A TWO-FOOTED TYPIST.
THIS IS FUN, BUT I KNOW A BETTER WAY! C'MON, ROBIN!

THE "THINKER'S" MEN ARE BATTERED BY THE CRASHING TYPEWRITER LETTERS.
POLICE, ALERTED EARLIER BY BATMAN AS SOON AS HE LOCATED THE HIDE-OUT, RUSH INTO THE GALLERY AND...
YOU AND YOUR MEN ARE FINISHED, "THINKER"! WANT US TO SPELL IT OUT FOR YOU?
HIT THE SHIFT LOCK, BATMAN, AND LET'S MAKE THIS CAPITAL PUNISHMENT!
ALFRED, TURN YOURSELF OVER TO THE POLICE AND EXPLAIN THAT THE "THINKER'S" MEN FORCED YOU TO COME ALONG ON THE BREAK.
BUT HOW ARE WE EVER GOING TO GET HIM OUT OF JAIL? THE POLICE STILL THINK BRUCE WAYNE WAS MURDERED!
BRUCE WAYNE WILL TURN UP ALIVE! IT'LL BE QUITE A STORY—"MODERN MIRACLE! BRUCE WAYNE ALIVE, FOUND ON SMALL ATLANTIC ISLAND—EXONERATES BUTLER COMPLETELY"... CAN'T YOU JUST READ IT?
LATER...
HERE'S THE ISLAND ON THIS MAP, ROBIN. WE'LL BE THERE IN ABOUT TWO HOURS.
A NAVY PATROL PLANE SHOULD SPOT YOU, AND WHEN YOU GET BACK THE PAPERS WILL BREAK THE STORY.
AND BACK IN JAIL...
AH, ME—IN A SHORT TIME ALL THIS WILL BE OVER, AND I'LL RETURN TO THE HUMDRUM LIFE OF A BUTLER. BUT—IT WAS FUN WHILE IT LASTED—JEEPERS, IT WAS!
The End

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OUR CLUB GOT LETTERS, TOO! WE JUST PRESS THEM ON! NO SEWING!
G
Bazooka
THE ATOM BUBBLE GUM
BIG, BIG, BIG! BUBBLES WITH BAZOOKA THE ATOM BUBBLE GUM!

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USE THIS COUPON, OR WRITE TO

BAZOOKA
BOX 20, MADISON SQUARE STATION,
NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

PLEASE SEND ME _____
(GIVE LETTER OR NUMBER DESIRED AND COLOR PREFERRED)
I ENCLOSE 10¢ AND A BAZOOKA WRAPPER FOR EACH LETTER OR NUMBER REQUESTED.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY

A BIG HIT *in* ADVENTURE COMICS

—AND NOW

SUPERBOY

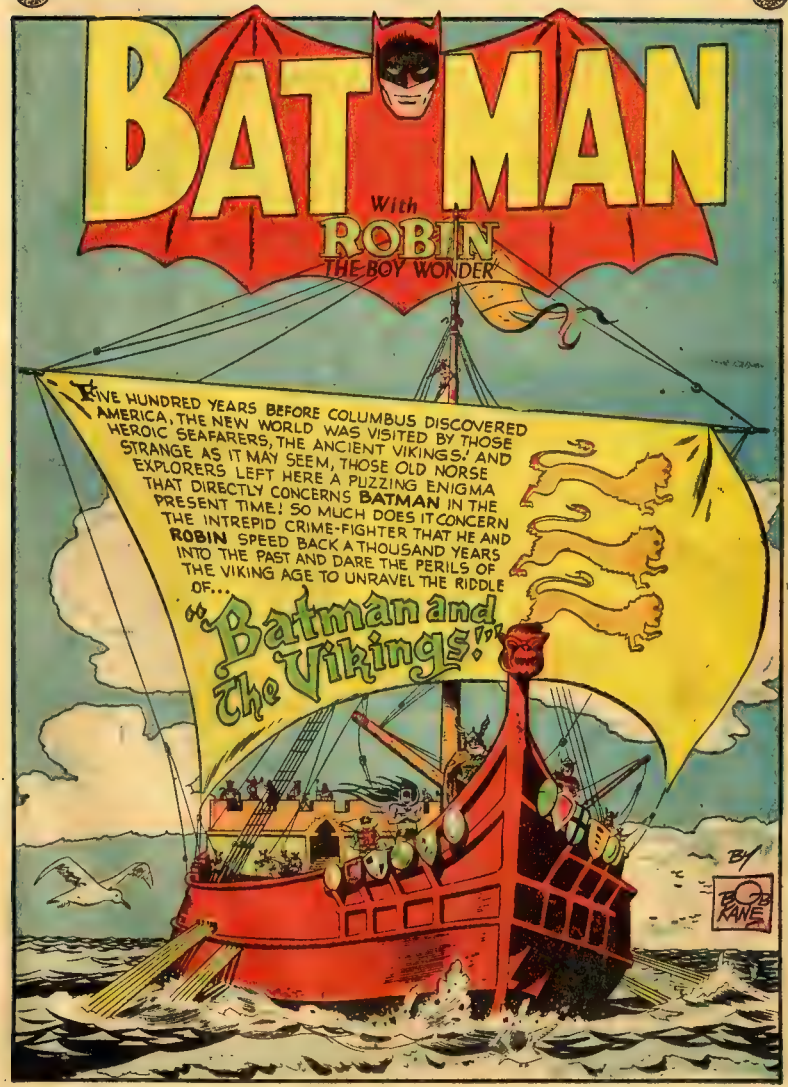
HAS A MAGAZINE ALL HIS OWN!

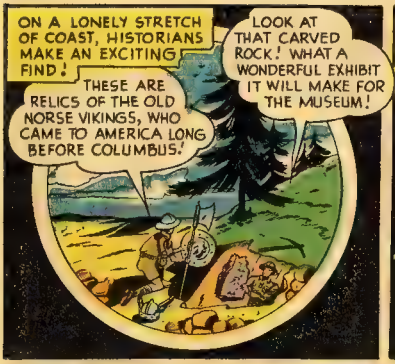
THE MILLIONS OF FANS WHO HAVE THRILLED TO THE STARTLING EXPLOITS OF *THE MAN OF STEEL* CAN THRILL AGAIN TO THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF

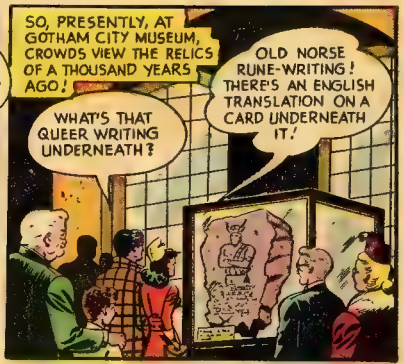
SUPERMAN WHEN HE WAS A *BOY!*

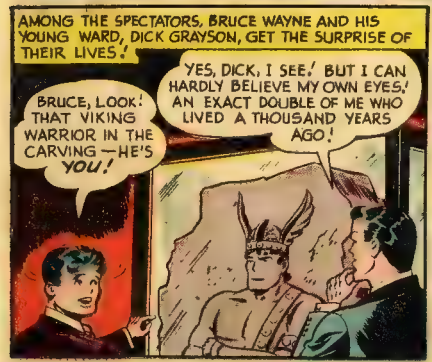
On Sale Everywhere

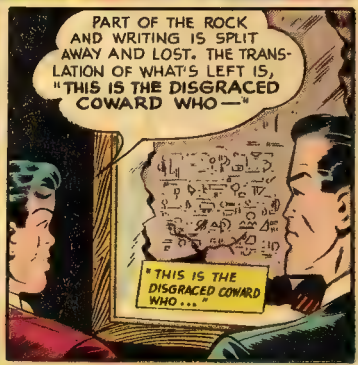
DON'T MISS THIS GREAT FIRST ISSUE!

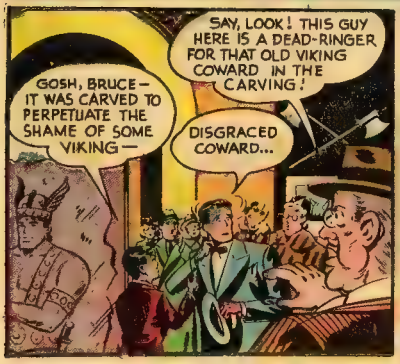

BATMAN
With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER
FIVE HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE COLUMBUS DISCOVERED AMERICA, THE NEW WORLD WAS VISITED BY THOSE HEROIC SEAFARERS, THE ANCIENT VIKINGS! AND STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM, THOSE OLD NORSE EXPLORERS LEFT HERE A PUZZING ENIGMA THAT DIRECTLY CONCERNS BATMAN IN THE PRESENT TIME! SO MUCH DOES IT CONCERN THE INTREPID CRIME-FIGHTER THAT HE AND ROBIN SPEED BACK A THOUSAND YEARS INTO THE PAST AND DARE THE PERILS OF THE VIKING AGE TO UNRAVEL THE RIDDLE OF...
"Batman and the Vikings!"
BY
BOB KANE

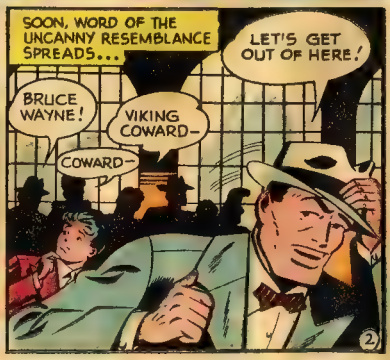

ON A LONELY STRETCH OF COAST, HISTORIANS MAKE AN EXCITING FIND!
THESE ARE RELICS OF THE OLD NORSE VIKINGS, WHO CAME TO AMERICA LONG BEFORE COLUMBUS!
LOOK AT THAT CARVED ROCK! WHAT A WONDERFUL EXHIBIT IT WILL MAKE FOR THE MUSEUM!


SO, PRESENTLY, AT GOTHAM CITY MUSEUM, CROWDS VIEW THE RELICS OF A THOUSAND YEARS AGO!
WHAT'S THAT QUEER WRITING UNDERNEATH?
OLD NORSE RUNE-WRITING! THERE'S AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION ON A CARD UNDERNEATH IT!


AMONG THE SPECTATORS, BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON, GET THE SURPRISE OF THEIR LIVES!
BRUCE, LOOK! THAT VIKING WARRIOR IN THE CARVING—HE'S YOU!
YES, DICK, I SEE! BUT I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE MY OWN EYES! AN EXACT DOUBLE OF ME WHO LIVED A THOUSAND YEARS AGO!

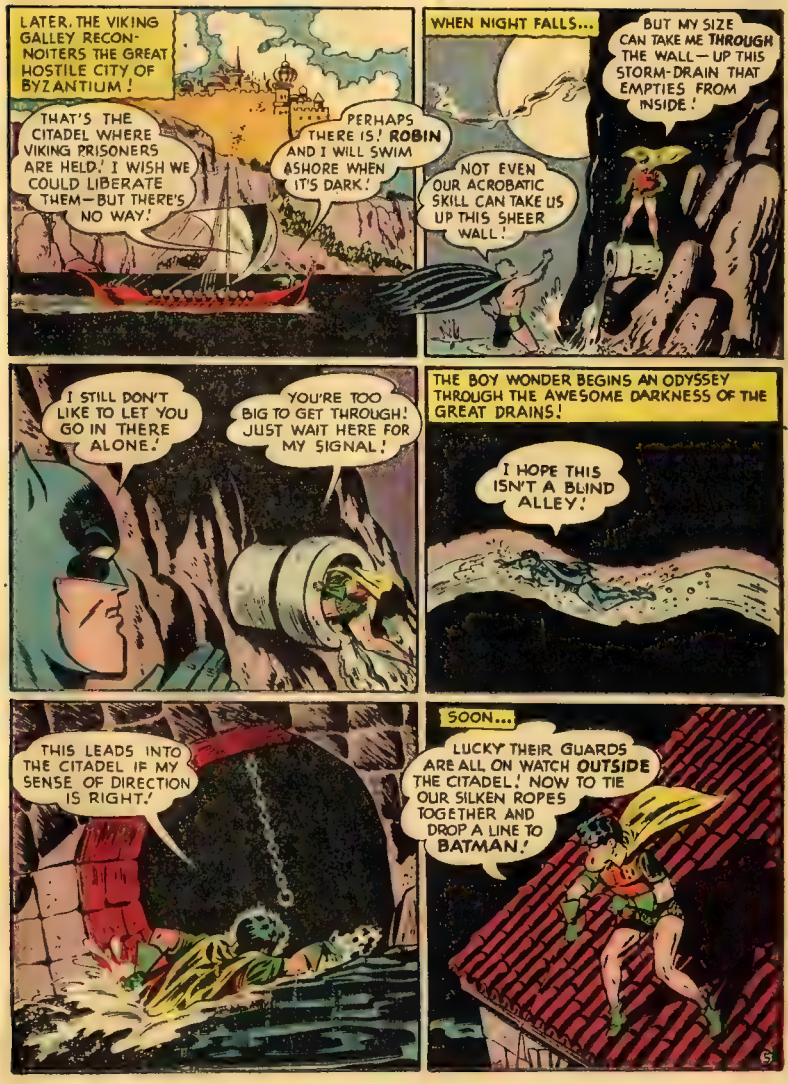

PART OF THE ROCK AND WRITING IS SPLIT AWAY AND LOST. THE TRANSLATION OF WHAT'S LEFT IS, "THIS IS THE DISGRACED COWARD WHO—"
"THIS IS THE DISGRACED COWARD WHO..."

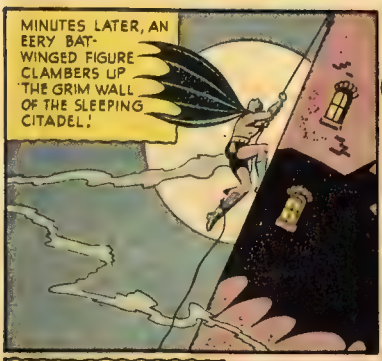

GOSH, BRUCE—IT WAS CARVED TO PERPETUATE THE SHAME OF SOME VIKING—
SAY, LOOK! THIS GUY HERE IS A DEAD-RINGER FOR THAT OLD VIKING COWARD IN THE CARVING!
DISGRACED COWARD...

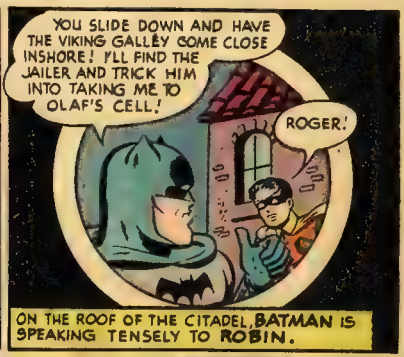

SOON, WORD OF THE UNCANNY RESEMBLANCE SPREADS...
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
BRUCE WAYNE!
VIKING COWARD—
COWARD—

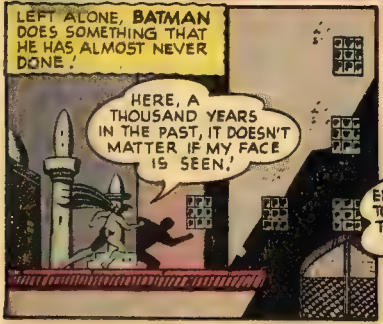
AT HOME, THE WHISPERS STILL ECHO IN BRUCE WAYNE'S EARS...
SNAP OUT OF IT BRUCE. AFTER ALL, IT WASN'T YOU—IT WAS ONLY SOMEONE WHO LOOKED LIKE YOU!
I KNOW, DICK—BUT I FEEL AWFUL ABOUT IT JUST THE SAME! ANOTHER ME DISGRACED FOR ALL TIME!
BUT NO ONE JUST LIKE YOU COULD BE A COWARD, BRUCE! THIS DOUBLE OF YOURS IN THE PAST MUST HAVE BEEN MISJUDGED!
YOU'VE GIVEN ME AN IDEA, DICK! I'M GOING TO FIND OUT.' I'LL GET PROFESSOR NICHOLS TO SEND ME BACK INTO THE PAST AGAIN!
SNAP!
AND ONCE MORE, THE UNIQUE SCIENTIFIC METHOD OF PROF. NICHOLS HURLS TWO INTREPID ADVENTURERS BACK INTO THE PAST!
... A THOUSAND YEARS—THE NORWAY OF THE OLD VIKINGS—
A SENSATION OF FALLING THROUGH DARKNESS, A SHOCK, A BLINDING LIGHT...
THEN...!
NORWAY OF THE VIKINGS, IN THE YEAR 990!
FIRST—TO FIND OUT WHO IN THIS TIME LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE ME!
WARRIOR, TELL ME—DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO LOOKS LIKE ME?
HO! SO YOU'VE DARED COME BACK TO NORWAY, YOU CRAVEN!
WAIT, I'M NOT THE MAN YOU THINK I AM—
ARE YOU LIAR AS-WELL AS COWARD, OLAF ERICKSON?
3

IT'S OLAF ERICKSON!
WE'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE AND CHANGE TO BATMAN AND ROBIN TO PREVENT FURTHER MISUNDERSTANDINGS!
IN A DESERTED BYWAY, A QUICK CHANGE OF COSTUME ...
SO FAR, SO GOOD—WE KNOW MY DOUBLE'S NAME—OLAF ERICKSON!
YES, AND YOUR MASK WILL KEEP PEOPLE FROM MISTAKING YOU FOR HIM FROM NOW ON!
OLAF ERICKSON? THE CURSE OF THOR ON HIM FOR BRINGING SHAME ON US VIKINGS!
YES, HE SHOWED COWARDICE WHEN FIGHTING AGAINST BYZANTIUM! NOW HE IS IMPRISONED THERE, AND DISGRACED FOREVER!
SO IT'S TRUE! MY DOUBLE REALLY WAS A COWARD!
IT LOOKS THAT WAY. BUT CAN'T A MAN REDEEM HIMSELF? IF OLAF SHOULD, IT WOULD CHANGE THE OPINION OF THESE VIKINGS—AND OF HISTORY!
OLAF HAS TO BE RESCUED THEN, AND GIVEN THE CHANCE TO REDEEM HIMSELF!
THAT MEANS WE HAVE TO FIND SOME SHIP GOING TO BYZANTIUM!
YES, WE SAIL TO RECONNOITER BYZANTIUM AND WILL WELCOME TWO MORE SEAMEN! BUT WHY ARE YOU MASKED? WERE YOU SCARRED IN BATTLE?
WELL, WE HAVE GOT SOME BRUISES FROM THE JOKER AND THE PENGUIN—BUT YOU WOULDN'T KNOW THEM!
4


LATER, THE VIKING GALLEY RECONNOITERS THE GREAT HOSTILE CITY OF BYZANTIUM!
THAT'S THE CITADEL WHERE VIKING PRISONERS ARE HELD! I WISH WE COULD LIBERATE THEM—BUT THERE'S NO WAY!
PERHAPS THERE IS! ROBIN AND I WILL SWIM ASHORE WHEN IT'S DARK!
WHEN NIGHT FALLS...
NOT EVEN OUR ACROBATIC SKILL CAN TAKE US UP THIS SHEER WALL!
BUT MY SIZE CAN TAKE ME THROUGH THE WALL—UP THIS STORM-DRAIN THAT EMPTIES FROM INSIDE!
I STILL DON'T LIKE TO LET YOU GO IN THERE ALONE!
YOU'RE TOO BIG TO GET THROUGH! JUST WAIT HERE FOR MY SIGNAL!
THE BOY WONDER BEGINS AN ODYSSEY THROUGH THE AWESOME DARKNESS OF THE GREAT DRAINS!
I HOPE THIS ISN'T A BLIND ALLEY!
THIS LEADS INTO THE CITADEL IF MY SENSE OF DIRECTION IS RIGHT!
SOON...
LUCKY THEIR GUARDS ARE ALL ON WATCH OUTSIDE THE CITADEL! NOW TO TIE OUR SILKEN ROPES TOGETHER AND DROP A LINE TO BATMAN!


MINUTES LATER, AN EERY BAT-WINGED FIGURE CLAMBERS UP THE GRIM WALL OF THE SLEEPING CITADEL!


YOU SLIDE DOWN AND HAVE THE VIKING GALLEY COME CLOSE INSHORE! I'LL FIND THE JAILER AND TRICK HIM INTO TAKING ME TO OLAF'S CELL!
ROGER!
ON THE ROOF OF THE CITADEL, BATMAN IS SPEAKING TENSELY TO ROBIN.

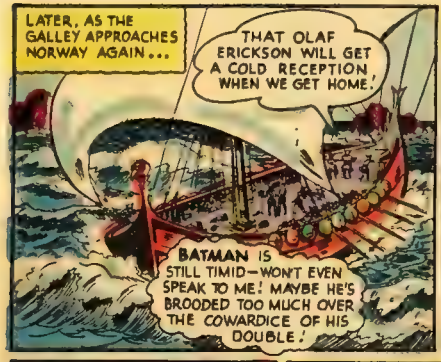

LEFT ALONE, BATMAN DOES SOMETHING THAT HE HAS ALMOST NEVER DONE!
HERE, A THOUSAND YEARS IN THE PAST, IT DOESN'T MATTER IF MY FACE IS SEEN!

AND A SURPRISED JAILER MAKES A NATURAL MISTAKE!
OLAF ERICKSON, TRYING TO ESCAPE! BACK TO YOUR CELL OR I'LL CUT YOU DOWN!
GOOD! JUST AS I PLANNED IT!

BUT AS THE DUPED GUARD OPENS THE CELL OF THE REAL OLAF...
THERE'S TWO OF YOU! I DON'T UNDERSTAND—

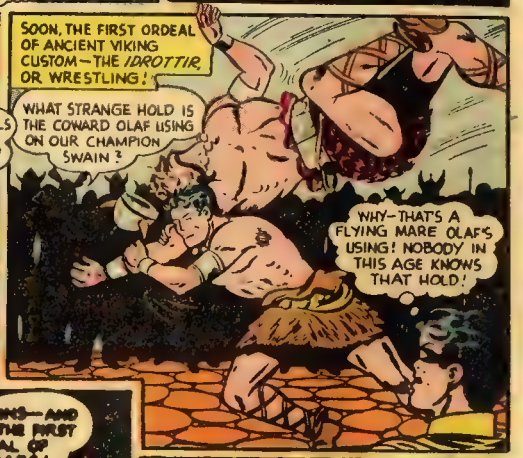
I THOUGHT I COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS SURPRISE TO LOCK HIM IN!
BY THOR, YOU ARE ME! YOU LOOK JUST LIKE ME! WHO ARE YOU?
CLICK!

I'M SOMEONE WHO CAME A LONG WAY TO HELP YOU ESCAPE!
I DON'T WANT TO ESCAPE! I CAN'T RETURN TO NORWAY—I SHAMED MY NAME FOREVER BY COWARDICE!
I HAD HOPED TO LEAD AN EXPEDITION TO VINLAND, TO FIND MY LOST COUSIN—BUT NO VIKING WOULD EVER FOLLOW OLAF THE COWARD NOW!
LISTEN, I'VE A PLAN TO CHANGE THEIR OPINION OF YOU SO THEY WILL FOLLOW YOU!
LATER, AS ROBIN ANXIOUSLY WAITS WITH THE VIKING GALLEY, BATMAN AND OLAF CLIMB ABOARD...
I WAS THE ONLY VIKING PRISONER IN THERE! YOU CAN CAST OFF AT ONCE, CAPTAIN!
HERE THEY ARE!
OLAF ERICKSON, THE COWARD! I OUGHT TO DRIVE YOU BACK THERE INSTEAD OF RESCUING YOU!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH BATMAN? HE LOOKS AFRAID!
BYZANTINE GALLEYS ARE COMING! WE'LL BE DISCOVERED IF WE STAY HERE LONGER!
THEN WE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE, THOUGH I HATE TO RESCUE THAT CRAVEN!
AND BATMAN LOOKED EVEN MORE SCARED THAT WE'D BE SEEN BY THOSE OTHER SHIPS! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT.
WE SLIPPED AWAY WITHOUT THEIR SEEING US! HO FOR THE OPEN SEA AND HOME!

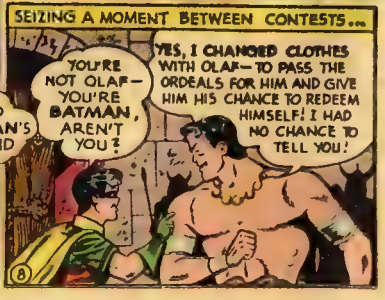

LATER, AS THE GALLEY APPROACHES NORWAY AGAIN...
THAT OLAF ERICKSON WILL GET A COLD RECEPTION WHEN WE GET HOME!
BATMAN IS STILL TIMID—WON'T EVEN SPEAK TO ME! MAYBE HE'S BROODED TOO MUCH OVER THE COWARDICE OF HIS DOUBLE!

UPON LANDING...
OLAF ERICKSON THE COWARD! WHY HAVE YOU DARED COME HOME?
I KNOW VIKING LAW! I DEMAND THE RIGHT TO PROVE MY COURAGE BY THE THREE ORDEALS!

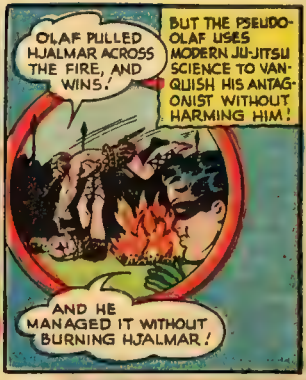
LET OLAF ENDURE THE THREE ORDEALS, IF HE DARES! IT IS HIS RIGHT!
WE'LL MAKE THE ORDEALS ESPECIALLY HARD FOR THIS COWARD!
BATMAN EVEN SEEMS AFRAID OF THIS CROWD!


SOON, THE FIRST ORDEAL OF ANCIENT VIKING CUSTOM—THE IDROTTIR, OR WRESTLING!
WHAT STRANGE HOLD IS THE COWARD OLAF USING ON OUR CHAMPION SWAIN?
WHY—THAT'S A FLYING MARE OLAF'S USING! NOBODY IN THIS AGE KNOWS THAT HOLD!

OLAF WINS—AND PASSES THE FIRST ORDEAL OF COURAGE!
NOW I GET IT! SO THAT'S WHY BATMAN'S BEEN SO TIMID AND STRANGE!

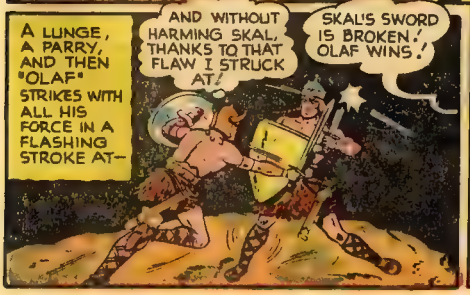

SEIZING A MOMENT BETWEEN CONTESTS...
YOU'RE NOT OLAF—YOU'RE BATMAN, AREN'T YOU?
YES, I CHANGED CLOTHES WITH OLAF—TO PASS THE ORDEALS FOR HIM AND GIVE HIM HIS CHANCE TO REDEEM HIMSELF! I HAD NO CHANCE TO TELL YOU!

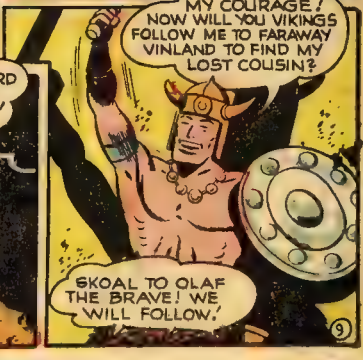
THE SECOND ORDEAL—THE SKIN-PULLING, DANGEROUS TUG-OF-WAR CONTEST OF THE VIKINGS!
ONE OF THEM WILL PULL THE OTHER THROUGH THE FIRE!
BATMAN WILL NEVER PULL ANYONE THROUGH A FIRE! BUT IF HE DOESN'T, HE'LL BE PULLED IN HIMSELF!

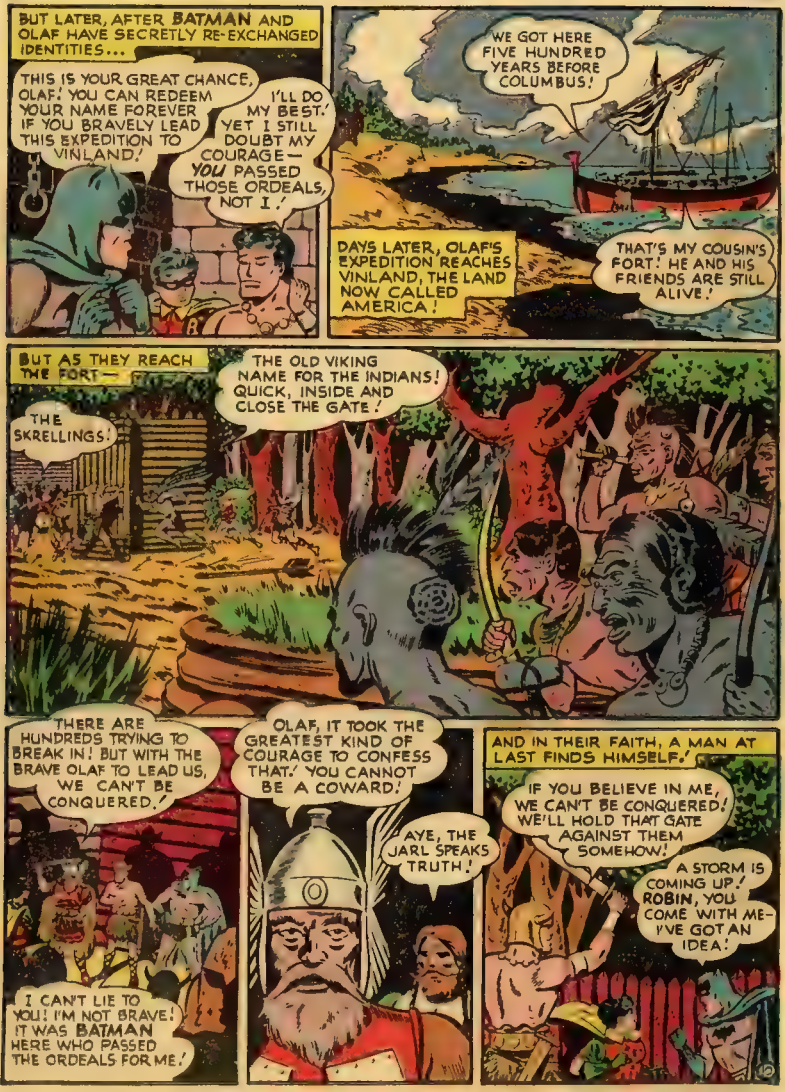

OLAF PULLED HJALMAR ACROSS THE FIRE, AND WINS!
BUT THE PSEUDO-OLAF USES MODERN JU-JITSU SCIENCE TO VANQUISH HIS ANTAGONIST WITHOUT HARMING HIM!
AND HE MANAGED IT WITHOUT BURNING HJALMAR!

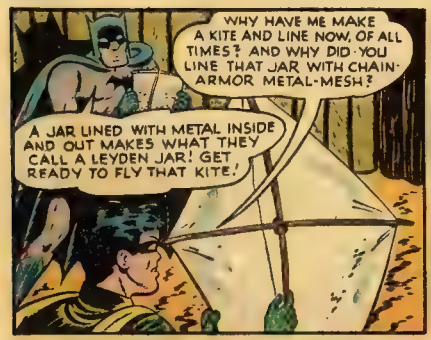
AND THE FINAL ORDEAL—THE TERRIBLE HOLMGANG, OR DUEL ON A TINY ISLAND FROM WHICH IS NO RETREAT!
OLAF CAN'T BEAT SKAL THE SWORDSMAN!

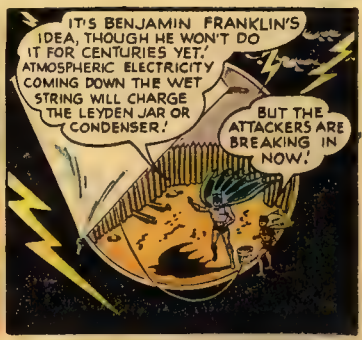
I HAVE TO WIN AND YET NOT HURT HIM! THERE'S ONE CHANCE! MODERN METALLURGY TELLS ME—
"THAT GRAY STREAK IS A FLAW IN THE STEEL!"

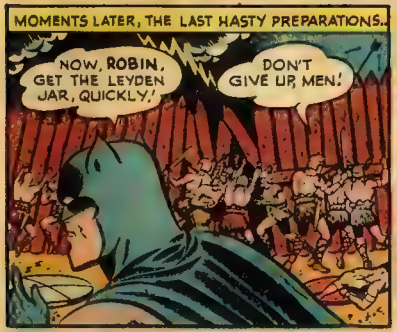

A LUNGE, A PARRY, AND THEN "OLAF" STRIKES WITH ALL HIS FORCE IN A FLASHING STROKE AT—
AND WITHOUT HARMING SKAL, THANKS TO THAT FLAW I STRUCK AT!
SKAL'S SWORD IS BROKEN! OLAF WINS!

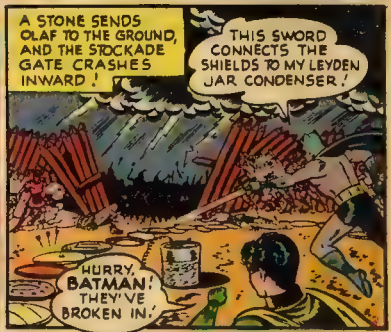

I'VE PROVED MY COURAGE! NOW WILL YOU VIKINGS FOLLOW ME TO FARAWAY VINLAND TO FIND MY LOST COUSIN?
SKOAL TO OLAF THE BRAVE! WE WILL FOLLOW!

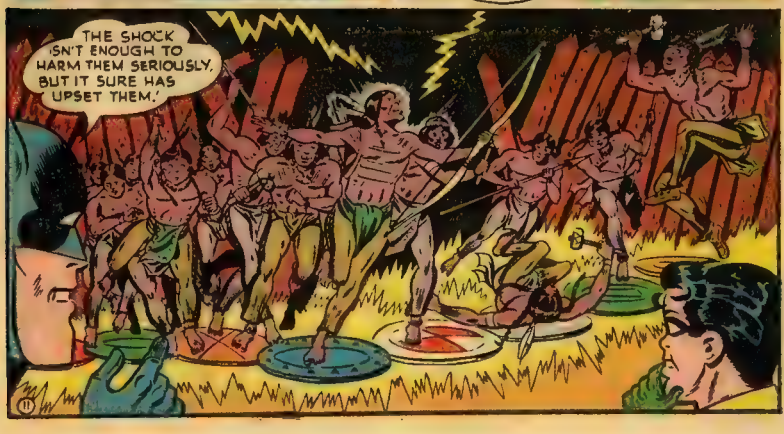

BUT LATER, AFTER BATMAN AND OLAF HAVE SECRETLY RE-EXCHANGED IDENTITIES...
THIS IS YOUR GREAT CHANCE, OLAF! YOU CAN REDEEM YOUR NAME FOREVER IF YOU BRAVELY LEAD THIS EXPEDITION TO VINLAND!
I'LL DO MY BEST! YET I STILL DOUBT MY COURAGE— YOU PASSED THOSE ORDEALS, NOT I!
WE GOT HERE FIVE HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE COLUMBUS!
DAYS LATER, OLAF'S EXPEDITION REACHES VINLAND, THE LAND NOW CALLED AMERICA!
THAT'S MY COUSIN'S FORT! HE AND HIS FRIENDS ARE STILL ALIVE!
BUT AS THEY REACH THE FORT—
THE SKRELLINGS!
THE OLD VIKING NAME FOR THE INDIANS! QUICK, INSIDE AND CLOSE THE GATE!
THERE ARE HUNDREDS TRYING TO BREAK IN! BUT WITH THE BRAVE OLAF TO LEAD US, WE CAN'T BE CONQUERED!
I CAN'T LIE TO YOU! I'M NOT BRAVE! IT WAS BATMAN HERE WHO PASSED THE ORDEALS FOR ME!
OLAF, IT TOOK THE GREATEST KIND OF COURAGE TO CONFESS THAT! YOU CANNOT BE A COWARD!
AYE, THE JARL SPEAKS TRUTH!
AND IN THEIR FAITH, A MAN AT LAST FINDS HIMSELF!
IF YOU BELIEVE IN ME, WE CAN'T BE CONQUERED! WE'LL HOLD THAT GATE AGAINST THEM SOMEHOW!
A STORM IS COMING UP! ROBIN, YOU COME WITH ME— I'VE GOT AN IDEA!


WHY HAVE ME MAKE A KITE AND LINE NOW, OF ALL TIMES? AND WHY DID YOU LINE THAT JAR WITH CHAIN-ARMOR METAL-MESH?
A JAR LINED WITH METAL INSIDE AND OUT MAKES WHAT THEY CALL A LEYDEN JAR! GET READY TO FLY THAT KITE!

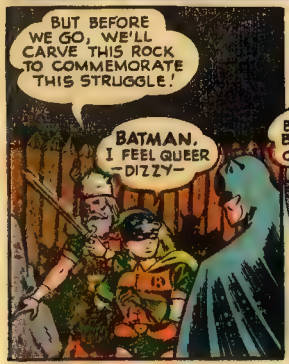

IT'S BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S IDEA, THOUGH HE WON'T DO IT FOR CENTURIES YET. ATMOSPHERIC ELECTRICITY COMING DOWN THE WET STRING WILL CHARGE THE LEYDEN JAR OR CONDENSER!
BUT THE ATTACKERS ARE BREAKING IN NOW!

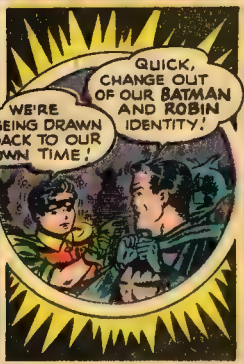

MOMENTS LATER, THE LAST HASTY PREPARATIONS..
NOW, ROBIN, GET THE LEYDEN JAR, QUICKLY!
DON'T GIVE UP, MEN!

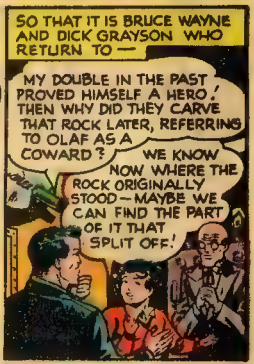

A STONE SENDS OLAF TO THE GROUND, AND THE STOCKADE GATE CRASHES INWARD!
THIS SWORD CONNECTS THE SHIELDS TO MY LEYDEN JAR CONDENSER!
HURRY, BATMAN! THEY'VE BROKEN IN!


THE SHOCK ISN'T ENOUGH TO HARM THEM SERIOUSLY, BUT IT SURE HAS UPSET THEM!

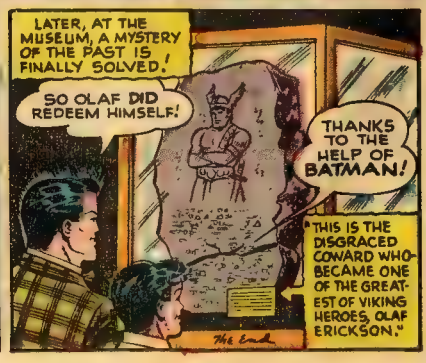
OUR BRAVE LEADER OLAF IS ONLY STUNNED!
AND THE SKRELLINGS HAVE FLED! WE CAN ALL RETURN TO NORWAY NOW!


BUT BEFORE WE GO, WE'LL CARVE THIS ROCK TO COMMEMORATE THIS STRUGGLE!
BATMAN, I FEEL QUEER —DIZZY—


QUICK, CHANGE OUT OF OUR BATMAN AND ROBIN IDENTITY!
WE'RE BEING DRAWN BACK TO OUR OWN TIME!


SO THAT IT IS BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON WHO RETURN TO —
MY DOUBLE IN THE PAST PROVED HIMSELF A HERO! THEN WHY DID THEY CARVE THAT ROCK LATER, REFERRING TO OLAF AS A COWARD?
WE KNOW NOW WHERE THE ROCK ORIGINALLY STOOD — MAYBE WE CAN FIND THE PART OF IT THAT SPLIT OFF!

USING THE KNOWLEDGE GAINED A THOUSAND YEARS AGO...
THE HISTORIANS WILL TRANSLATE THE REST OF THESE RUNES FOR US!
WE'LL SOON SEE HOW THE WHOLE LEGEND READ!
12


LATER, AT THE MUSEUM, A MYSTERY OF THE PAST IS FINALLY SOLVED!
SO OLAF DID REDEEM HIMSELF!
THANKS TO THE HELP OF BATMAN!
"THIS IS THE DISGRACED COWARD WHO BECAME ONE OF THE GREATEST OF VIKING HEROES, OLAF ERICKSON."
The End

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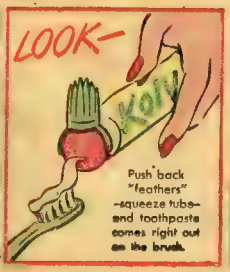
KIDS!

BRUSHING TEETH IS FUN WITH NEW KOLYNOS INJUN KAP!

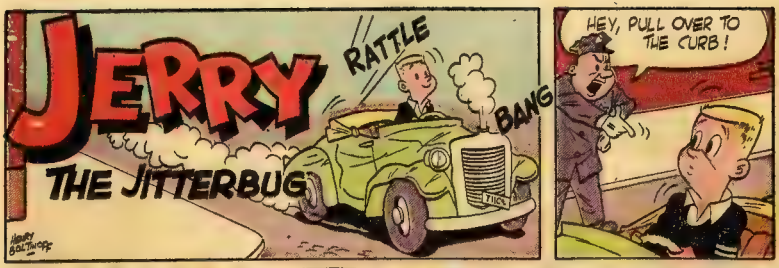
THE ONLY TOOTHPASTE CAP THAT WORKS LIKE THIS!



AND I CAN'T DROP OFF— CAN'T GET LOST!

GEE IT'S FUN TO BRUSH MY TEETH NOW.
THE KAP IS ALWAYS WHERE IT SHOULD BE— ON THE TUBE.
KOLYNOS HAS GOT SOMETHING EXTRA — IT SWEETENS THE BREATH AS IT CLEANS TEETH.
Kolynos
OFFERED ONLY BY Kolynos

LOOK FOR THIS DISPLAY AT YOUR DRUGGIST



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TOPICS

FELLERS, HERE'S MY NEW FREE "TOPS IN SKATING TIPS" BOOKLET... FOR SOME HINTS ON EXPERT SKATING. THEY'RE GOING FAST --SO WRITE TODAY.

TWO ROWS OF BALL BEARINGS IN EACH WHEEL IN NOS. 3831 AND 3739

...AND WINCHESTER FREE WHEELING ROLLER SKATES SLIDE LIKE GREASED LIGHTNING BECAUSE THEY, TOO, HAVE WINCHESTER-MADE PRECISION BALL BEARINGS ON EACH WHEEL... THAT'S WHY IT'S SO EASY TO SKATE FASTER ON WINCHESTER FREE WHEELING ROLLER SKATES..!

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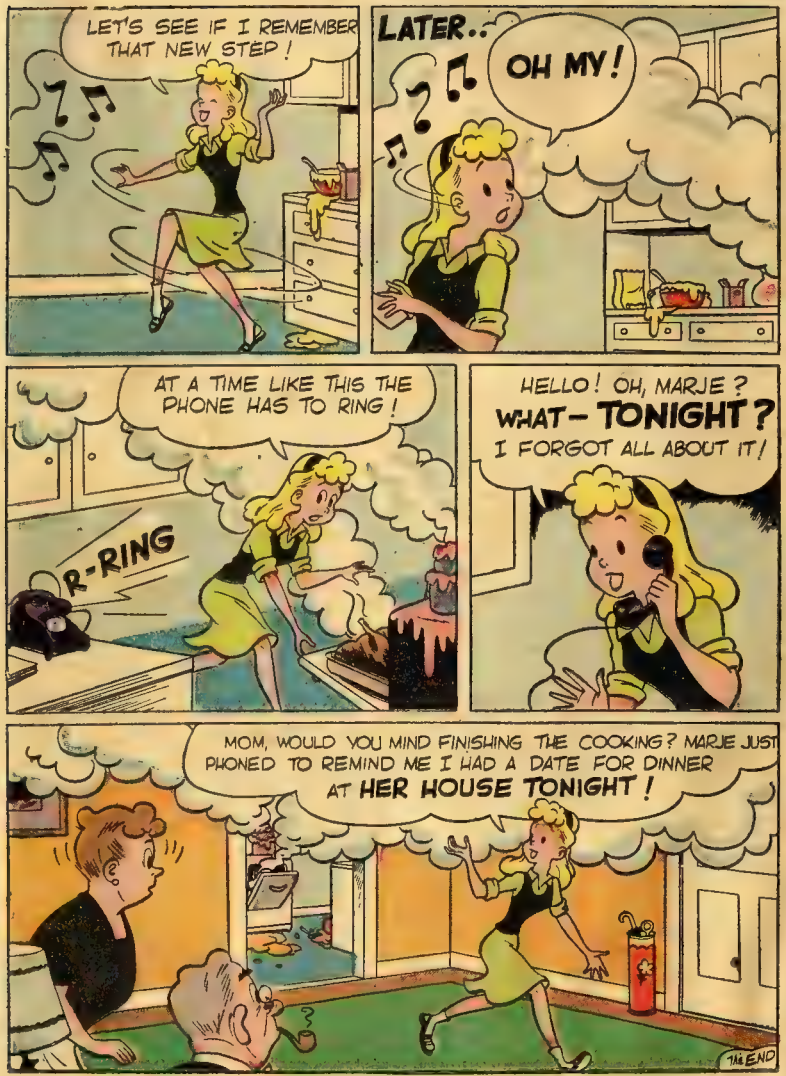
PEG
HENRY BOLTINOFF
HO-HUM, NOTHING TO DO. I KNOW - I'LL SURPRISE MOTHER!
NOW DON'T YOU COME IN THE KITCHEN! I'M GOING TO COOK THE DINNER FOR TONIGHT!
NOW LET'S SEE--WHAT SHALL I MAKE?
COOK BOOK
FIRST, I'LL BAKE A CAKE TO SHOW MOTHER HOW GOOD I REALLY AM!
WHAT SUPER MUSIC!


LET'S SEE IF I REMEMBER THAT NEW STEP!
LATER..
OH MY!
AT A TIME LIKE THIS THE PHONE HAS TO RING!
R-RING
HELLO! OH, MARJE? WHAT— TONIGHT? I FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT!
MOM, WOULD YOU MIND FINISHING THE COOKING? MARJE JUST PHONED TO REMIND ME I HAD A DATE FOR DINNER AT HER HOUSE TONIGHT!
THE END

"GUILTY!"

That was the verdict of the court.

"The penalty—death!"

This was the verdict, and this was the sentence, pronounced 2000 years ago on a man named Socrates.

After the death sentence was pronounced upon him, Socrates, then seventy years old, rose to his feet and addressed the court. He stood erect. His heart was heavy, but his head was unbowed. He told the court they were sentencing an innocent man, but he did not hate them for it. He was not afraid to die.

"Gentlemen, the hour of departure has arrived, and we must go our own way. I to die; you to live. Which is the better—only God knows." Those were the last words spoken by Socrates to the five hundred judges in the court of Athens.

Socrates was then tied in chains and thrown into prison to await the final hour. Not once in all those thirty days was he ever afraid. Not once throughout the entire month was he ever melancholy about his fate. He had an educated sense of humor, and it remained with him to the last moment.

Socrates could have escaped jail and avoided death. His friends had bribed the prison guards and planned thoroughly the route of escape. But Socrates refused to flee. He had spent his life fighting for truth, for justice and for law. He was ready to die for what he thought was right, as he had been throughout his life.

On the morning of the last day of his life, his wife and sons came to visit him in prison. He was very cheerful. He told his wife not to worry, that his friends would take care of her and the children. She broke down and started to cry, and he had one of his friends take her and the children home.

Socrates was one of the richest poor men that ever lived. He had no money and possessed no wealth of any kind. But he had friends. Friends, who were true and loyal, who would sacrifice their lives and their fortunes for him, if he would only let them.

At sunset of the last day, the prison warden entered Socrates' cell to wish him farewell. The cell was crowded with Socrates' faithful friends. There were tears in the warden's eyes when he told Socrates that he was, "the bravest, the gentlest, the best man I have ever known—in prison or out."

Shortly a man holding a cup of poison entered. Socrates' hands and eyes were steady as he took the cup. He recited a short

prayer, raised the cup to his lips and drank the poison, as calmly as any man drinks his coffee. At this point his friends broke down and started to cry. Several became hysterical. Socrates, disappointed in their behavior, scolded them gently.

He walked up and down the cell till his feet began to feel heavy. Then he lay down and covered his head with a sheet. The poison was heading towards his heart. Silence filled the room. The old man lay motionless. Suddenly Socrates uncovered his head and spoke to his friend, Crito.

"Crito, we owe a debt to Asculepios. Don't forget to pay it." He spoke in a weak tone. When he finished he covered his head again with the sheet. His movements were those of a man whose end was near.

There was a convulsive movement. The man who had brought the poison uncovered the body. Socrates was dead.

Thus Socrates died in the city of Athens in 399 B.C., over two thousand years ago. But why? Why was he killed? What was his crime? Whom did he murder? What did he steal? He murdered nobody. He stole nothing. The only thing that Socrates ever murdered was superstition and falsehood. And the only thing he ever stole from any man was ignorance and sin.

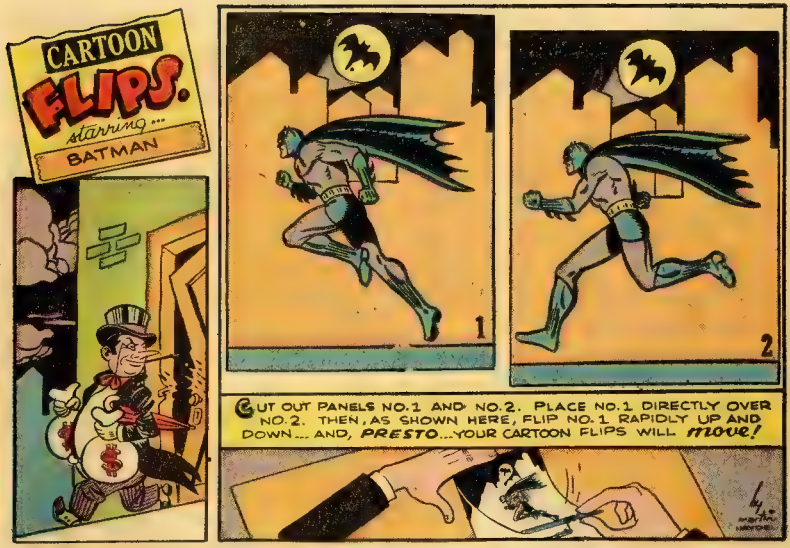
Socrates was born in 469 B.C. in Athens. At the time Athens was at the height of her glory. He had a powerful physique. Though he ate very little, he had great energy and endurance. He wore the same kind of clothing in winter as in summer and always walked barefoot. His record as a soldier in the Athenian army was an exemplary one, demonstrating his great courage, endurance and calmness under fire.

Socrates started out life as a sculptor but soon left that to start on his lifelong search for truth, knowledge and beauty. He had very little schooling as a youth in Athens, and most of what he knew he had taught himself. He was a humble, sincere man who never got angry. He became the greatest thinker of his age and perhaps the greatest thinker of all time. Two men who might equal or surpass him are Plato and Aristotle, and they were his pupils and followers. Whatever we know today about religion, philosophy, psychology, mathematics or physics we owe, directly or indirectly, to either Socrates, Plato or Aristotle. These three men of ancient Greece laid the foundation on which modern man's knowledge is based.

Socrates was a philosopher, a thinker, a pursuer of truth and knowledge and virtue. He was a man of ideas. As his ideas spread, he became popular and influential. But his ideas differed from the ideas of the men in power at the time. His ideas were a threat to the power and prestige of the men who held the reins of the Athenian government. They tried to kill his ideas, but Socrates' ideas were too strong to be killed—truth and justice were on his side. Unable to kill his ideas, they killed Socrates himself.

Over two thousand years have passed since Socrates died, but his ideas are still alive today. The criminals in history have tortured, exiled and murdered men with new ideas since time immemorial. Their crimes are futile. For if the idea has truth, justice and mankind's progress on its side, it will live eternally and its creator will be immortal. Socrates will live till the end of time in the hearts and minds of all thinking men who pursue truth, justice and virtue.

"In death the noblest, in life the wisest and most just." In these words, spoken by Plato, the life and death of Socrates are adequately described.


CARTOON
FLIPS.
starring...
BATMAN
1
2
CUT OUT PANELS NO.1 AND NO.2. PLACE NO.1 DIRECTLY OVER NO.2. THEN, AS SHOWN HERE, FLIP NO.1 RAPIDLY UP AND DOWN... AND, PRESTO...YOUR CARTOON FLIPS WILL MOVE!

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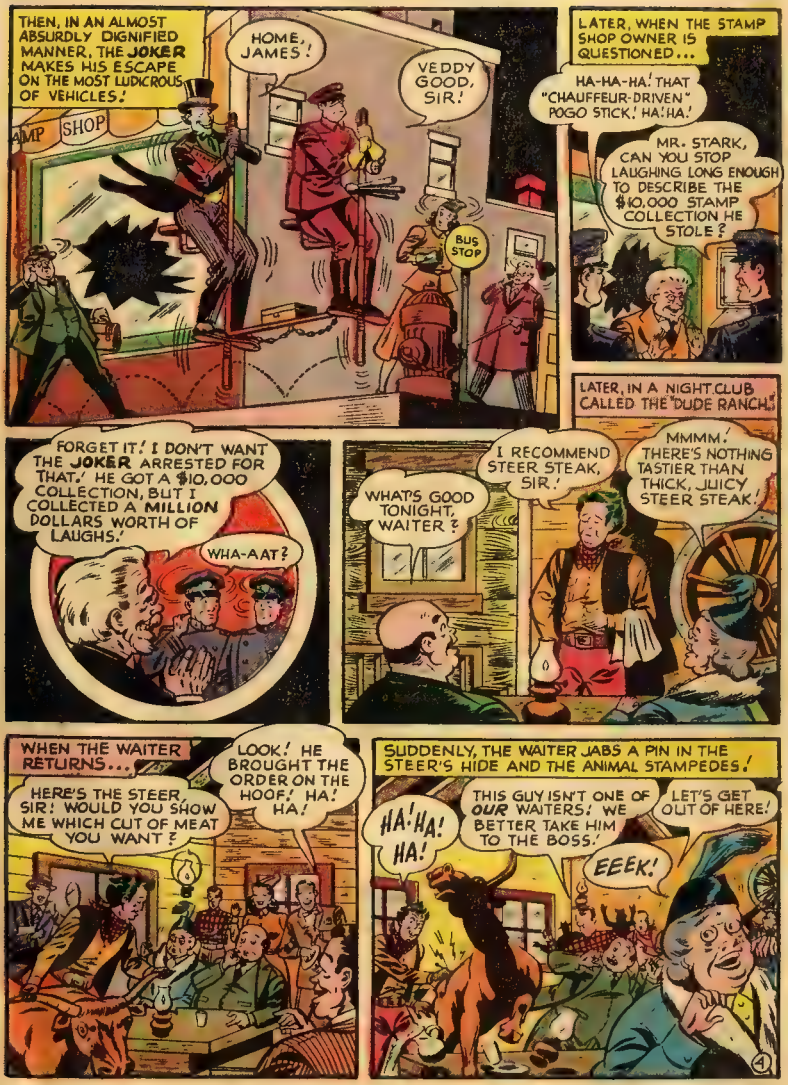
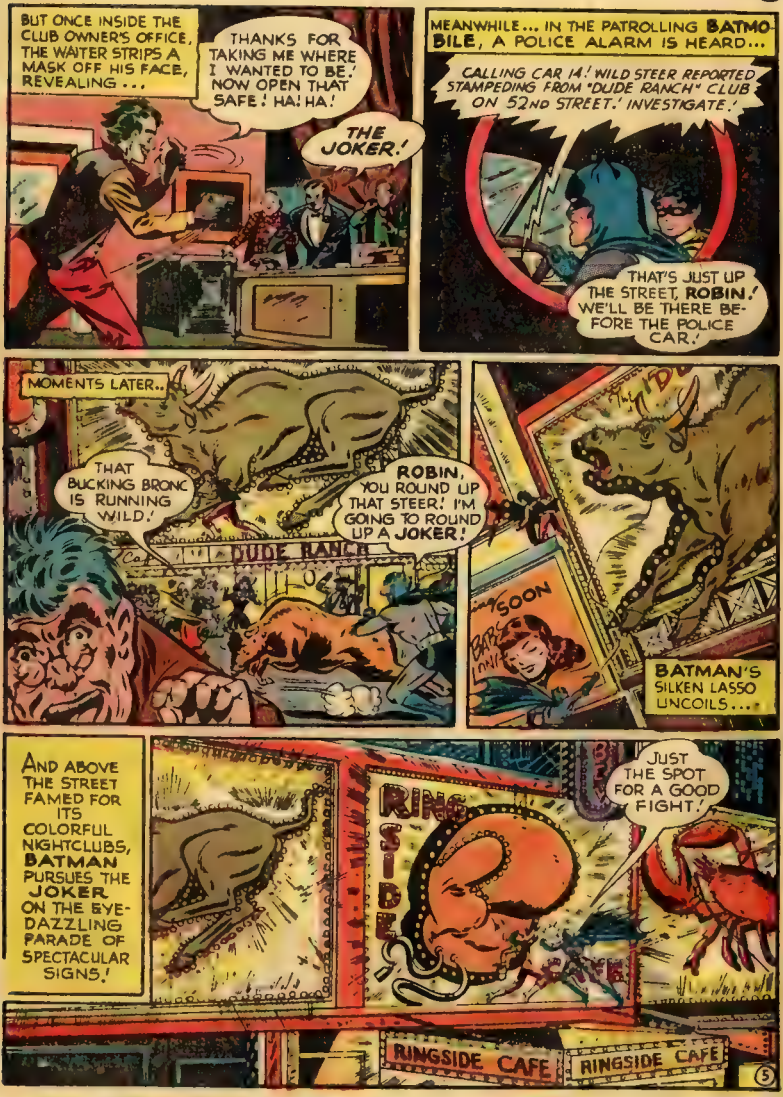
WORLD'S FINEST COMICS

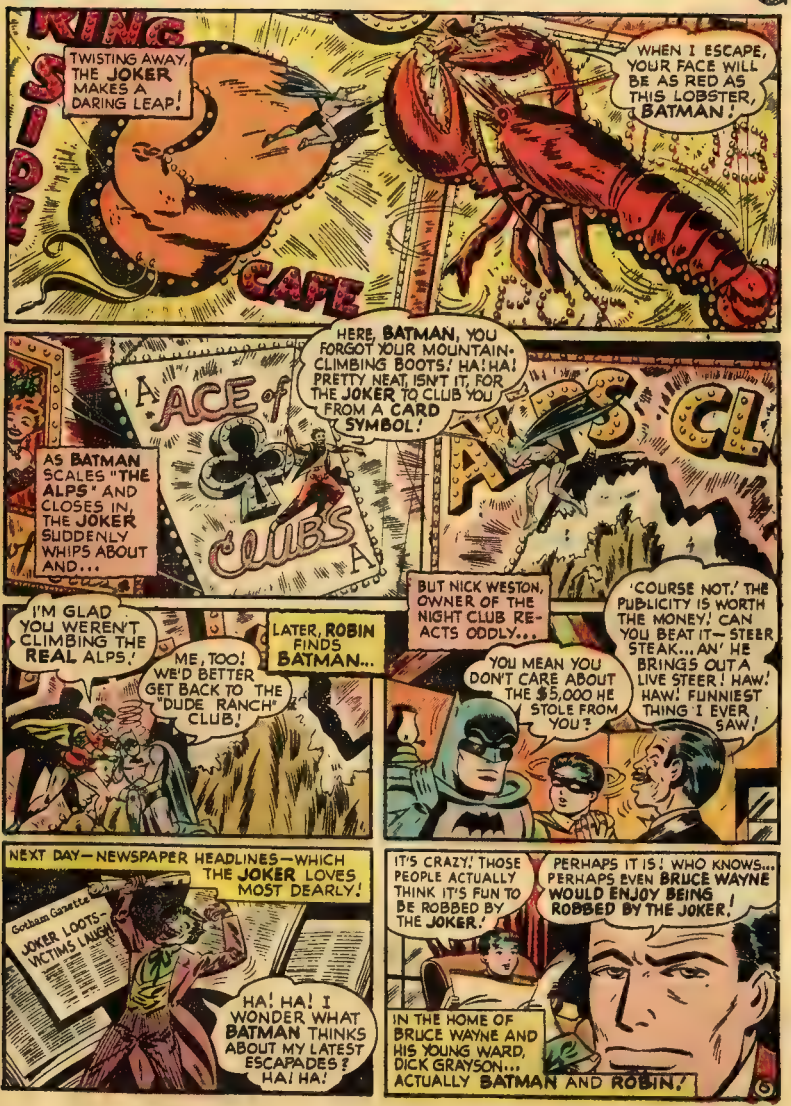
BAT MAN
With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER
WOULD YOU THINK IT FUNNY TO BE ROBBED BY THE JOKER? OF COURSE NOT, BUT SOME PEOPLE DO! WHY?? THE ANSWER TO THAT JACKPOT QUESTION MAKES FOR THE WHACKIEST STORY OF THE YEAR AS BATMAN AND ROBIN GO DAFFY TRYING TO SOLVE THE CRAZY CASE OF...
"The Happy Victims!"
STOP, BATMAN! LET THE JOKER ESCAPE WITH MY $10,000! HA! HA! I NEVER LAUGHED SO HARD IN MY LIFE! HA! HA! IT'S FUN TO BE ROBBED BY THE JOKER!
BOB KANE

IN HIS BIZARRE RETREAT, THE GRIM JESTER PLAYS CARDS WITH A HIRELING....
YOU LOSE, JOKER...I DREW FOUR ACES! THAT OUGHTTA BE ENOUGH TO TAKE THE POT.'
WAIT.'
FOUR ACES ARE NOT ENOUGH TO WIN WHEN YOU PLAY WITH THE JOKER! I HOLD FIVE JOKERS.'
HEY, IT AIN'T FAIR TO PLAY WITH FIVE JOKERS.' IT'S JUST LIKE ROBBING ME OF THE MONEY!
OHO.' SO YOU THINK I'M ROBBING YOU!
THEN THE JOKER LAUGHS... SHUDDERING, SINISTER LAUGHTER THAT CHILLS HIS HIRELING'S SPINE...
HA! HA! HA!
YOU DARE INSULT ME... ME.' HA! HA! HA!
(GULP)
J-JOKER, I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF YOUR LAUGH.' YOU-YOU WOULDN'T K-KILL ME, WOULD YOU...? NOT A GUY WITH YOUR SENSE O' HUMOR!
"SENSE OF HUMOR"?
S-SURE.' YOU ALWAY PULL A CRIME IN SUCH A CRAZY WAY THAT A GUY HAS TO LAUGH, HA, HA.' S-SEE? I'M LAUGHIN'! HAR! HAR.' IT'S F-FUN TO BE ROBBED BY YOU.'
SUDDENLY... HERE... TAKE THE MONEY, AS PAYMENT! YOUR FRIGHTENED CHATTER HAS JUST GIVEN ME AN IDEA FOR A NEW KIND OF CRIME—FUNNY, ROBBERIES. HA.' HA.' HA.'

A FEW DAYS LATER, AT THE ESTATE OF WEALTHY MRS. CARLIN, WHERE FISHING IS PROHIBITED...
YOU WISHED YOUR ERMINE COAT, MADAME... OHH!
OHHH!
I WISH THE COAT.
THEN BOTH VIEW AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT!
FIRST FISH I EVER CAUGHT WEARING FUR SCALES! HA! HA!
EEEK! IT'S THE JOKER!
AFTERWARD, WHEN THE POLICE QUESTION MRS. CARLIN...
HA! HA! IT WAS SO HUMOROUS! YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN HIM "PADDLING" AWAY! HA! HA!
YOU'VE TOLD US THAT STORY A DOZEN TIMES, MRS. CARLIN. NOW FOR A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR FUR COAT-
DEAR ME! I'VE BEEN LAUGHING SO HARD OVER THE JOKER THAT I COMPLETELY FORGOT ALL ABOUT THE COAT.
DON'T WORRY... WHEN WE CATCH THAT CROOKED CLOWN, WE'LL HAVE YOU SIGN A WARRANT FOR HIS ARREST.
I WON'T SIGN A WARRANT! AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, IT WAS WORTH THE PRICE OF THE COAT TO BE ROBBED BY THE JOKER! I NEVER LAUGHED SO MUCH IN ALL MY LIFE. HA! HA!
HUH!?
LATER, THAT SAME DAY, THE WINDOW OF A STAMP SHOP IS SMASHED...
CRASH!!
STARK'S STAMP SHOP
THIS ALBUM HOLDS A STAMP COLLECTION VALUED AT $20,000
HA! HA! HA!
3

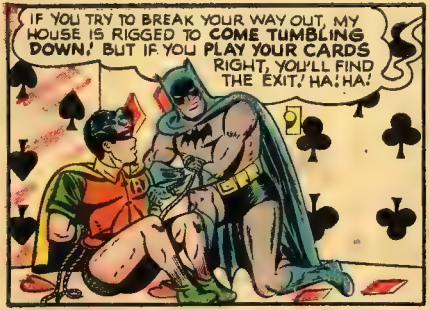

THEN, IN AN ALMOST ABSURDLY DIGNIFIED MANNER, THE JOKER MAKES HIS ESCAPE ON THE MOST LUDICROUS OF VEHICLES!
HOME, JAMES!
VEDDY GOOD, SIR!
AMP
SHOP
BUS STOP
LATER, WHEN THE STAMP SHOP OWNER IS QUESTIONED...
HA-HA-HA! THAT "CHAUFFEUR-DRIVEN" POGO STICK! HA! HA!
MR. STARK, CAN YOU STOP LAUGHING LONG ENOUGH TO DESCRIBE THE $10,000 STAMP COLLECTION HE STOLE?
LATER, IN A NIGHT CLUB CALLED THE "DUDE RANCH!"
FORGET IT! I DON'T WANT THE JOKER ARRESTED FOR THAT! HE GOT A $10,000 COLLECTION, BUT I COLLECTED A MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF LAUGHS!
WHA-AAT?
WHAT'S GOOD TONIGHT, WAITER?
I RECOMMEND STEER STEAK, SIR!
MMMM! THERE'S NOTHING TASTIER THAN THICK, JUICY STEER STEAK!
WHEN THE WAITER RETURNS... FAST
HERE'S THE STEER, SIR! WOULD YOU SHOW ME WHICH CUT OF MEAT YOU WANT?
LOOK! HE BROUGHT THE ORDER ON THE HOOF! HA! HA!
SUDDENLY, THE WAITER JABS A PIN IN THE STEER'S HIDE AND THE ANIMAL STAMPEDES!
HA! HA! HA!
THIS GUY ISN'T ONE OF OUR WAITERS! WE BETTER TAKE HIM TO THE BOSS!
EEEK!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
4

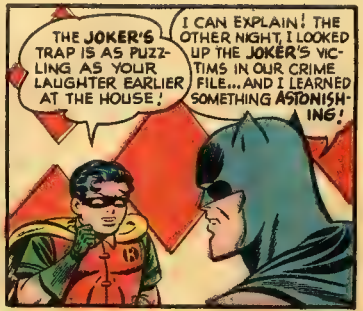

BUT ONCE INSIDE THE CLUB OWNER'S OFFICE, THE WAITER STRIPS A MASK OFF HIS FACE, REVEALING ...
THANKS FOR TAKING ME WHERE I WANTED TO BE! NOW OPEN THAT SAFE! HA! HA!
THE JOKER!
MEANWHILE... IN THE PATROLLING BATMOBILE, A POLICE ALARM IS HEARD...
CALLING CAR 14! WILD STEER REPORTED STAMPEDING FROM "DUDE RANCH" CLUB ON 52ND STREET! INVESTIGATE!
THAT'S JUST UP THE STREET, ROBIN! WE'LL BE THERE BEFORE THE POLICE CAR!
MOMENTS LATER..
THAT BUCKING BRONC IS RUNNING WILD!
ROBIN, YOU ROUND UP THAT STEER! I'M GOING TO ROUND UP A JOKER!
DUDE RANCH
SOON
BATMAN'S SILKEN LASSO UNCOILS...
AND ABOVE THE STREET FAMED FOR ITS COLORFUL NIGHTCLUBS, BATMAN PURSUES THE JOKER ON THE EYE-DAZZLING PARADE OF SPECTACULAR SIGNS!
RINGSIDE
JUST THE SPOT FOR A GOOD FIGHT!
RINGSIDE CAFE
RINGSIDE CAFE

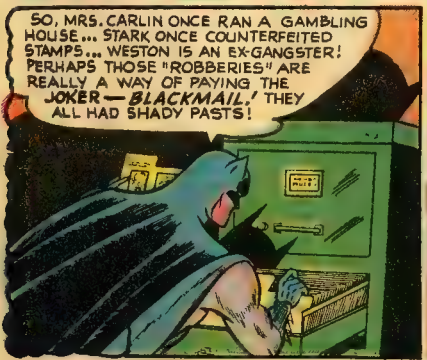

KING SIDE
TWISTING AWAY, THE JOKER MAKES A DARING LEAP!
WHEN I ESCAPE, YOUR FACE WILL BE AS RED AS THIS LOBSTER, BATMAN!
SAFE
AS BATMAN SCALES "THE ALPS" AND CLOSES IN, THE JOKER SUDDENLY WHIPS ABOUT AND...
HERE, BATMAN, YOU FORGOT YOUR MOUNTAIN-CLIMBING BOOTS! HA! HA! PRETTY NEAT, ISN'T IT, FOR THE JOKER TO CLUB YOU FROM A CARD SYMBOL!
ACE of CLUBS
I'M GLAD YOU WEREN'T CLIMBING THE REAL ALPS!
ME, TOO! WE'D BETTER GET BACK TO THE "DUDE RANCH" CLUB!
LATER, ROBIN FINDS BATMAN...
BUT NICK WESTON, OWNER OF THE NIGHT CLUB REACTS ODDLY...
YOU MEAN YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT THE $5,000 HE STOLE FROM YOU?
'COURSE NOT.' THE PUBLICITY IS WORTH THE MONEY! CAN YOU BEAT IT—STEER STEAK...AN' HE BRINGS OUT A LIVE STEER! HAW! HAW! FUNNIEST THING I EVER SAW!
NEXT DAY—NEWSPAPER HEADLINES—WHICH THE JOKER LOVES MOST DEARLY!
Gotham Gazette
JOKER LOOTS—VICTIMS LAUGH!
HA! HA! I WONDER WHAT BATMAN THINKS ABOUT MY LATEST ESCAPADES? HA! HA!
IT'S CRAZY! THOSE PEOPLE ACTUALLY THINK IT'S FUN TO BE ROBBED BY THE JOKER.'
PERHAPS IT IS! WHO KNOWS... PERHAPS EVEN BRUCE WAYNE WOULD ENJOY BEING ROBBED BY THE JOKER!
IN THE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON... ACTUALLY BATMAN AND ROBIN!

THE NEXT NIGHT, AS ALFRED, THE WAYNE BUTLER, HANGS A PAINTING ...
OH, YES, SIR! IF IT'S THE ORIGINAL FRANZ HALS "LAUGHING CAVALIER", IT'S WORTH A FORTUNE!
LIKE IT, ALFRED?
BUT BEFORE BRUCE CAN ANSWER...
NO!
LOOK-IT'S THE JOKER! AND HE'S COMING HERE! QUICK, LET'S CHANGE INTO OUR ACTION COSTUMES AND COLLAR THAT CLOWN!
NO!! LET'S FIRST SEE WHAT HE DOES! MAYBE HE'LL HAND US SOME LAUGHS!
NO?
NO?
AS THE BURGLAR BUFFOON MAKES HIS GRAND ENTRANCE...
BEHOLD THE JOKER... THE GREATEST OF ALL PAINTERS-FOR WITH MY DEADLY PALETTE, I PAINT MASTERPIECES OF CRIME! HA! HA!
WITH ONE SWIFT MOVEMENT, HE CUTS THE NEWLY HUNG PAINTING FROM ITS FRAME AND...
SORRY FOR THE BRIEF VISIT, BUT I MUST DASH BACK TO MY STUDIO... WHERE I MUST DASH OFF SOME MASTERPIECES! SO LONG!
SIR, RUN AFTER HIM! CATCH HIM!
HA! HA! DID YOU SEE HIS COSTUME? THE FLOPPY BERET WAS A RIOT! HA! HA! IT'S TRUE-THE JOKER CERTAINLY MAKES ROBBERY A PLEASURE! HA!
WHAT'S THIS? BRUCE WAYNE..THE BATMAN ... ALSO FINDING THE CRIME CLOWN FUNNY?
7

ANNOYED WITH BRUCE, DICK WHIPS OFF HIS OUTER GARMENTS...
YOU CAN STAY HERE AND LAUGH, BUT I'M GOING AFTER THAT GIGGLING GARGOYLE!
NO, ROBIN... WAIT! COME BACK!
BUT OUTSIDE, ROBIN GETS A SURPRISE BLOW—FROM THE SKY!
ROBIN! WHERE'D THAT BRAT COME FROM?
GOOD THING HE DIDN'T NOTICE OUR GETAWAY BLIMP! I'LL KEEP HIM AS A HOSTAGE IN CASE BATMAN SHOWS UP!
ALFRED, MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE TOLD ROBIN I WANTED THE JOKER TO ESCAPE... SO I COULD TRAIL HIM TO HIS HIDEOUT AND RECOVER THE LOOT FROM THE PREVIOUS ROBBERIES!
EH?
MOMENTS LATER ...THE BATPLANE WINGS INTO THE NIGHTSKY!
ROBIN DIDN'T KNOW I HAD PAINTED THAT "LAUGHING CAVALIER" PICTURE MYSELF... WITH RADIOACTIVE PAINTS! WITH THIS GEIGER COUNTER THAT REGISTERS RADIO-ACTIVE IMPULSES, I CAN TRAIL THE JOKER'S BLIMP EVEN THOUGH IT'S OUT OF SIGHT!
CLICK CLICK
WHY... IT LOOKS LIKE THE MINIATURE HOUSES I USED TO BUILD WITH PLAYING CARDS WHEN I WAS A KID!
AND, THE SKY-TRAIL LEADS BATMAN TO A FANTASTIC STRUCTURE—A "HOUSE OF CARDS"!
LANDING, THE LAWMAN STEALTHILY ENTERS THE ODD BUILDING AND...
HA! HA! MY TELESCOPE SHOWED YOU FOLLOWING ME, BATMAN, SO I LED YOU INTO MY LATEST TRAP! NOW YOU AND I SHALL PLAY MENTAL POKER!
SLAM!
8

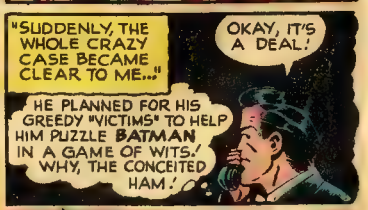

IF YOU TRY TO BREAK YOUR WAY OUT, MY HOUSE IS RIGGED TO COME TUMBLING DOWN! BUT IF YOU PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT, YOU'LL FIND THE EXIT! HA! HA!


THE JOKER'S TRAP IS AS PUZZLING AS YOUR LAUGHTER EARLIER AT THE HOUSE!
I CAN EXPLAIN! THE OTHER NIGHT, I LOOKED UP THE JOKER'S VICTIMS IN OUR CRIME FILE... AND I LEARNED SOMETHING ASTONISHING!


SO, MRS. CARLIN ONCE RAN A GAMBLING HOUSE... STARK ONCE COUNTERFEITED STAMPS... WESTON IS AN EX-GANGSTER! PERHAPS THOSE "ROBBERIES" ARE REALLY A WAY OF PAYING THE JOKER — BLACKMAIL! THEY ALL HAD SHADY PASTS!

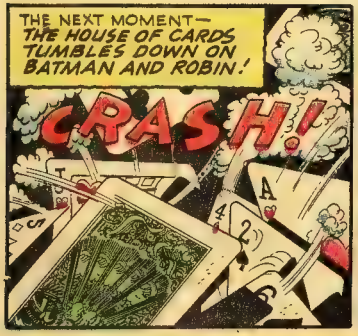
"THAT NIGHT, I DISGUISED MYSELF AS A THUG AND MIXED WITH SOME GABBY HOODLUMS IN A TOUGH DIVE..."
NOW PLAYING
YEAH... THIS WAYNE GUY PAID $15,000 FOR A PAINTING SOME GUY STOLE FROM A MUSEUM!
IF TH' COPS KNEW THAT, THEY'D GRAB WAYNE FAST!

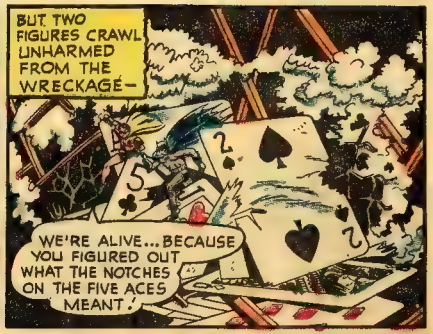
"NATURALLY, I HADN'T REALLY BOUGHT A STOLEN PAINTING, BUT I WANTED THE JOKER TO THINK I DID, AND THAT NIGHT HE PHONED ME..."
WAYNE, I WANT YOU TO ALLOW ME TO "STEAL" YOUR OIL PAINTING AND I'LL RETURN TWO OILS FOR IT! ALL I ASK IS YOU LAUGH — SO I CAN LAUGH AT BATMAN'S BEWILDERMENT!

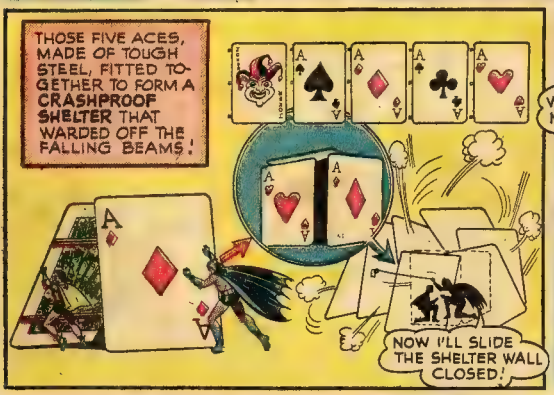

"SUDDENLY, THE WHOLE CRAZY CASE BECAME CLEAR TO ME..."
HE PLANNED FOR HIS GREEDY "VICTIMS" TO HELP HIM PUZZLE BATMAN IN A GAME OF WITS! WHY, THE CONCEITED HAM!
OKAY, IT'S A DEAL!

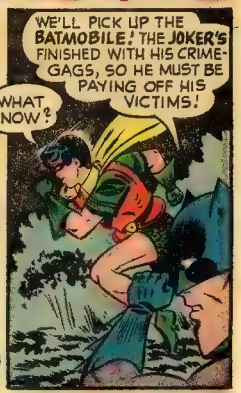
FINE! HAVE YOUR WARD AND YOUR BUTLER AS WITNESSES TO YOUR LAUGHTER! HA! HA!
9

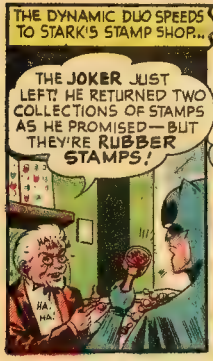
3
SO THAT'S WHY YOU LAUGHED! BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOUR PLAN?
I HAD TO MAKE SURE YOUR SURPRISE WAS REAL — INSTEAD OF FAKED—SO THE JOKER WOULDN'T BE SUSPICIOUS! NOW... LET'S GET THAT HAPPY HOODLUM!
A
JOKER
HE SAID, "MENTAL POKER"! THE WINNING HAND IN POKER IS FOUR ACES.'
NO, A ROYAL FLUSH BEATS THAT! PERHAPS IF I TOUCH THE ACE, KING, QUEEN, JACK, TEN OF SPADES, IT WILL OPEN A SECRET PANEL...
LOOK... THE JOKER AND ACE CARDS SLIDE OUT...THEY HAVE NOTCHES ON THE BACKS! NOW I KNOW WHAT OUR "EXIT" IS.'
YOU'VE SOLVED THE JOKER'S PUZZLE.' FIVE ACES BEAT ANY POKER HAND.'
BUT THAT "HAND" IS A LOSER!
I'LL BET THE JOKER'S WILD WITH LAUGHTER NOW!
"JOKER'S WILD"... OF COURSE! IF YOU PLAY CARDS WITH THE JOKER, THEN THE "JOKER CARD" WOULD BE "WILD"!
SNAP
A FEW MOMENTS LATER, BATMAN YANKS HARD AT A SILKEN LASSO TIED TO THE DOOR KNOB...
HOLD TIGHT, ROBIN! THIS ACT OF MINE IS GOING TO BRING THE HOUSE DOWN!


THE NEXT MOMENT— THE HOUSE OF CARDS TUMBLES DOWN ON BATMAN AND ROBIN!
CRASH!

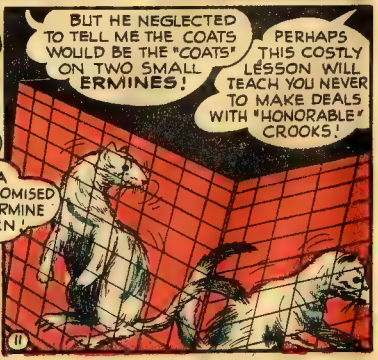

BUT TWO FIGURES CRAWL UNHARMED FROM THE WRECKAGE—
WE'RE ALIVE... BECAUSE YOU FIGURED OUT WHAT THE NOTCHES ON THE FIVE ACES MEANT!

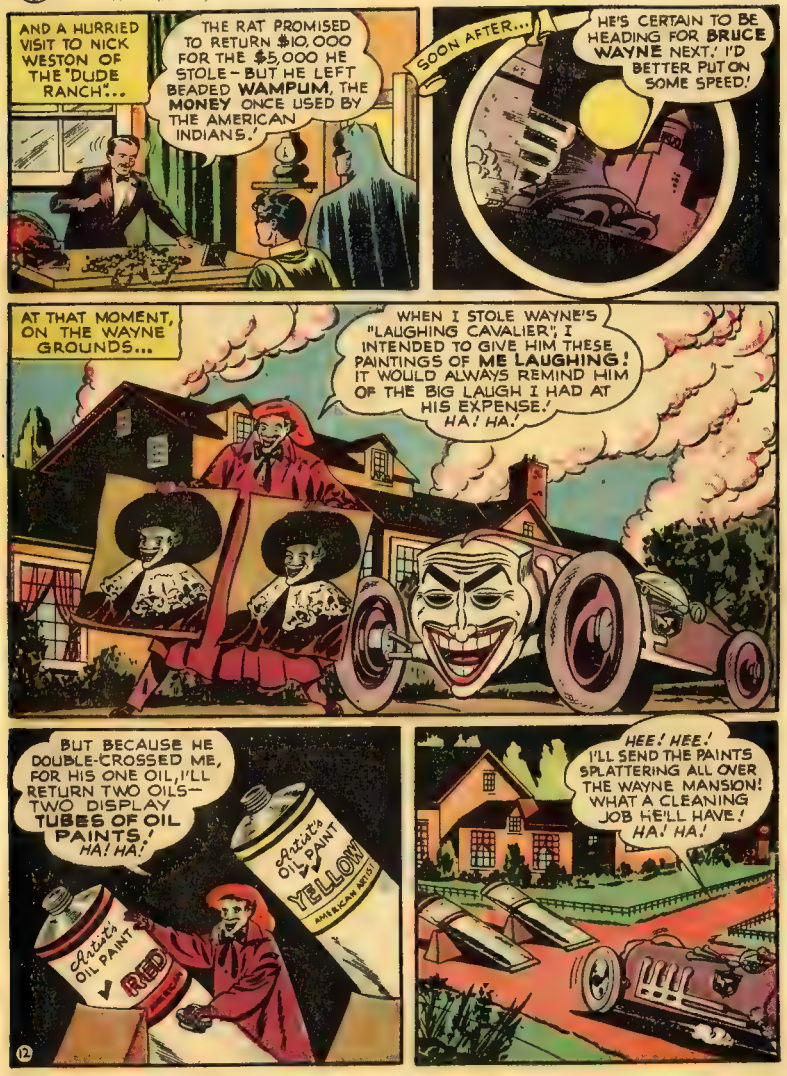

THOSE FIVE ACES, MADE OF TOUGH STEEL, FITTED TOGETHER TO FORM A CRASHPROOF SHELTER THAT WARDED OFF THE FALLING BEAMS!
NOW I'LL SLIDE THE SHELTER WALL CLOSED!

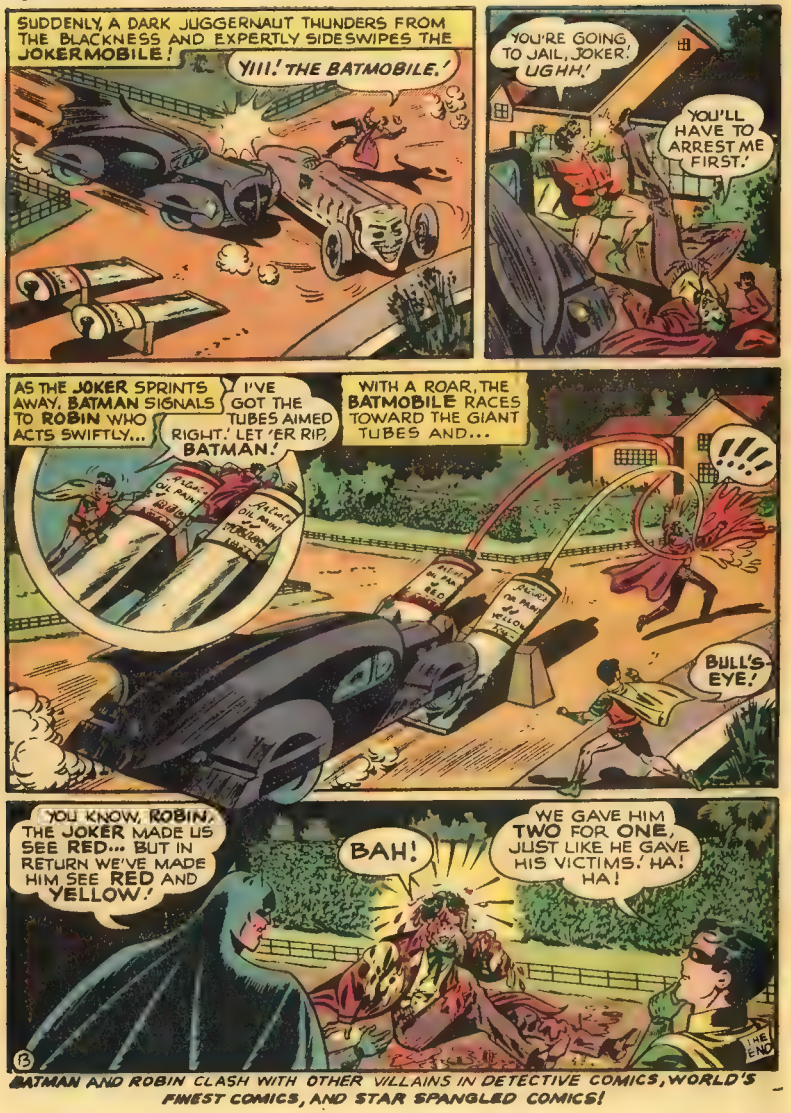

WE'LL PICK UP THE BATMOBILE! THE JOKER'S FINISHED WITH HIS CRIME-GAGS, SO HE MUST BE PAYING OFF HIS VICTIMS!
WHAT NOW?


THE DYNAMIC DUO SPEEDS TO STARK'S STAMP SHOP..
THE JOKER JUST LEFT! HE RETURNED TWO COLLECTIONS OF STAMPS AS HE PROMISED—BUT THEY'RE RUBBER STAMPS!
HA-HA-

BUT WHEN THE MAN-HUNTERS ARRIVE AT MRS. CARLIN'S HOME, THE CRIMINAL CLOWN HAS COME AND GONE!...
I KNOW ABOUT YOUR DEAL WITH THE JOKER SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL CONFESS!
YES, I MADE A DEAL... WHEN HE PROMISED TO GIVE ME TWO ERMINE COATS IN RETURN!


BUT HE NEGLECTED TO TELL ME THE COATS WOULD BE THE "COATS" ON TWO SMALL ERMINES!
PERHAPS THIS COSTLY LESSON WILL TEACH YOU NEVER TO MAKE DEALS WITH "HONORABLE" CROOKS!


AND A HURRIED VISIT TO NICK WESTON OF THE "DUDE RANCH"...
THE RAT PROMISED TO RETURN $10,000 FOR THE $5,000 HE STOLE—BUT HE LEFT BEADED WAMPUM, THE MONEY ONCE USED BY THE AMERICAN INDIANS.'
SOON AFTER...
HE'S CERTAIN TO BE HEADING FOR BRUCE WAYNE NEXT,' I'D BETTER PUT ON SOME SPEED!
AT THAT MOMENT, ON THE WAYNE GROUNDS...
WHEN I STOLE WAYNE'S "LAUGHING CAVALIER," I INTENDED TO GIVE HIM THESE PAINTINGS OF ME LAUGHING! IT WOULD ALWAYS REMIND HIM OF THE BIG LAUGH I HAD AT HIS EXPENSE! HA! HA!
BUT BECAUSE HE DOUBLE-CROSSED ME, FOR HIS ONE OIL, I'LL RETURN TWO OILS—TWO DISPLAY TUBES OF OIL PAINTS! HA! HA!
Artist's OIL PAINT RED
Artist's OIL PAINT YELLOW
AMERICAN ARTIST
HEE! HEE! I'LL SEND THE PAINTS SPLATTERING ALL OVER THE WAYNE MANSION! WHAT A CLEANING JOB HE'LL HAVE! HA! HA!
12


SUDDENLY, A DARK JUGGERNAUT THUNDERS FROM THE BLACKNESS AND EXPERTLY SIDESWIPES THE JOKERMOBILE!
YIII! THE BATMOBILE.'
YOU'RE GOING TO JAIL, JOKER. UGHH!
YOU'LL HAVE TO ARREST ME FIRST.'
AS THE JOKER SPRINTS AWAY, BATMAN SIGNALS TO ROBIN WHO ACTS SWIFTLY...
I'VE GOT THE TUBES AIMED RIGHT.' LET 'ER RIP, BATMAN.'
WITH A ROAR, THE BATMOBILE RACES TOWARD THE GIANT TUBES AND...
!!!!
BULL'S-EYE!
YOU KNOW, ROBIN, THE JOKER MADE US SEE RED... BUT IN RETURN WE'VE MADE HIM SEE RED AND YELLOW.'
BAH!
WE GAVE HIM TWO FOR ONE, JUST LIKE HE GAVE HIS VICTIMS.' HA! HA!
THE END

FAKE FIDDLER FOILED---

SAM SPADE, PRIVATE DETECTIVE HAS BEEN HIRED TO PROTECT WEALTHY GUESTS AT A "CHARACTER FROM AN OPERA" COSTUME PARTY

SO YOU'RE GOING TO THIS PARTY AS "FIGARO" THE BARBER, SAM!

RIGHT, CLEOPATRA! HERE'S MY COMB, CLIPPERS, AND A BOTTLE OF WILDROOT CREAM-OIL. LET'S GO...

DASHIELL HAMMETT'S

Adventures of SAM SPADE

LISTEN TO: "The Adventures of Sam Spade" every Sunday evening on your Columbia (CBS) station. See radio listing in your local newspaper

SAM, LET'S DANCE!

NO CAN DO, SWEETHEART-I'M HERE ON BUSINESS!

OKAY, GIT 'EM UP EVERYBODY... I WANT DAT "ICE" MISS MONEY-BAGS IS WEARIN'!!

SAM WHAT'LL WE DO?

I HATE TO WASTE THIS WILDROOT CREAM-OIL BABY... BUT HERE GOES!

WONDERFUL, MR. SPADE-WHERE DID YOU EVER LEARN TO THROW LIKE THAT?

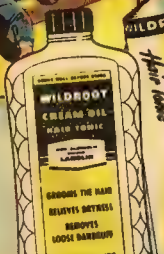
COULDN'T MISS LADY! A BOTTLE OF WILDROOT CREAM-OIL JUST NATURALLY ENDS UP ON SOME-BODY'S HEAD

YOU'RE NOT KIDDING, SAM!

LATER

JUST THINK, NO! THAT BOTTLE OF WILDROOT CREAM-OIL REALLY **PARTED** THAT GUY'S HAIR, DIDN'T IT?

WHY THE SMILE, SAM?



SAM SPADE ASKS:

CAN YOUR SCALP PASS THE FINGERNAIL TEST?

TRY IT! SCRATCH YOUR HEAD. IF YOU FIND SIGNS OF DRYNESS AND LOOSE, UGLY DANDRUFF YOU NEED WILDROOT CREAM-OIL HAIR TONIC. NON-ALCOHOLIC --CONTAINS SOOTHING LANOLIN

EFFIE SAYS:

SMART GIRLS USE WILDROOT CREAM-OIL FOR QUICK GROOMING AND FOR RELIEVING DRYNESS BETWEEN PERMANENTS. MOTHERS FIND IT WONDERFUL FOR TRAINING CHILDREN'S HAIR

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Cargland's guns wrote: "YOU CAN'T PRINT THAT!" But read what happened when a fighting editor accepted this challenge!

THE PUNCH-PACKED CASE-HISTORIES OF MEN WHO TRIED TO BEAT THE LAW—AND OF THE LAWMEN WHO BEAT THEM TO THE FINAL DRAW!

A SUPERMAN DC PUBLICATION

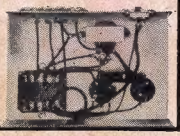
TOPS IN RADIO! NOW TOPS IN COMICS!

YOU PRACTICE Radio soldering, mounting, connecting with soldering equipment and Radio parts I send you.

YOU BUILD this Tester that soon helps you EARN EXTRA MONEY fixing neighbors' Radios in spare time.

YOU BUILD special Radio Circuits like this with parts I send. Learn how to locate and repair defective circuits.

YOU BUILD Vacuum Tube Power Pack, get experience correcting Power Pack troubles of many kinds.



YOU PRACTICE with this A. M. Signal Generator. Provides amplitude-modulated signals for many tests.

YOU BUILD this Superheterodyne Receiver Circuit, conduct FM (Frequency Modulation) experiments and other tests.

You Get PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE With This Superheterodyne Receiver

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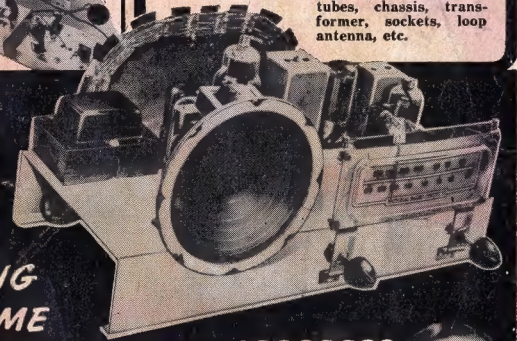

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DC
ANN